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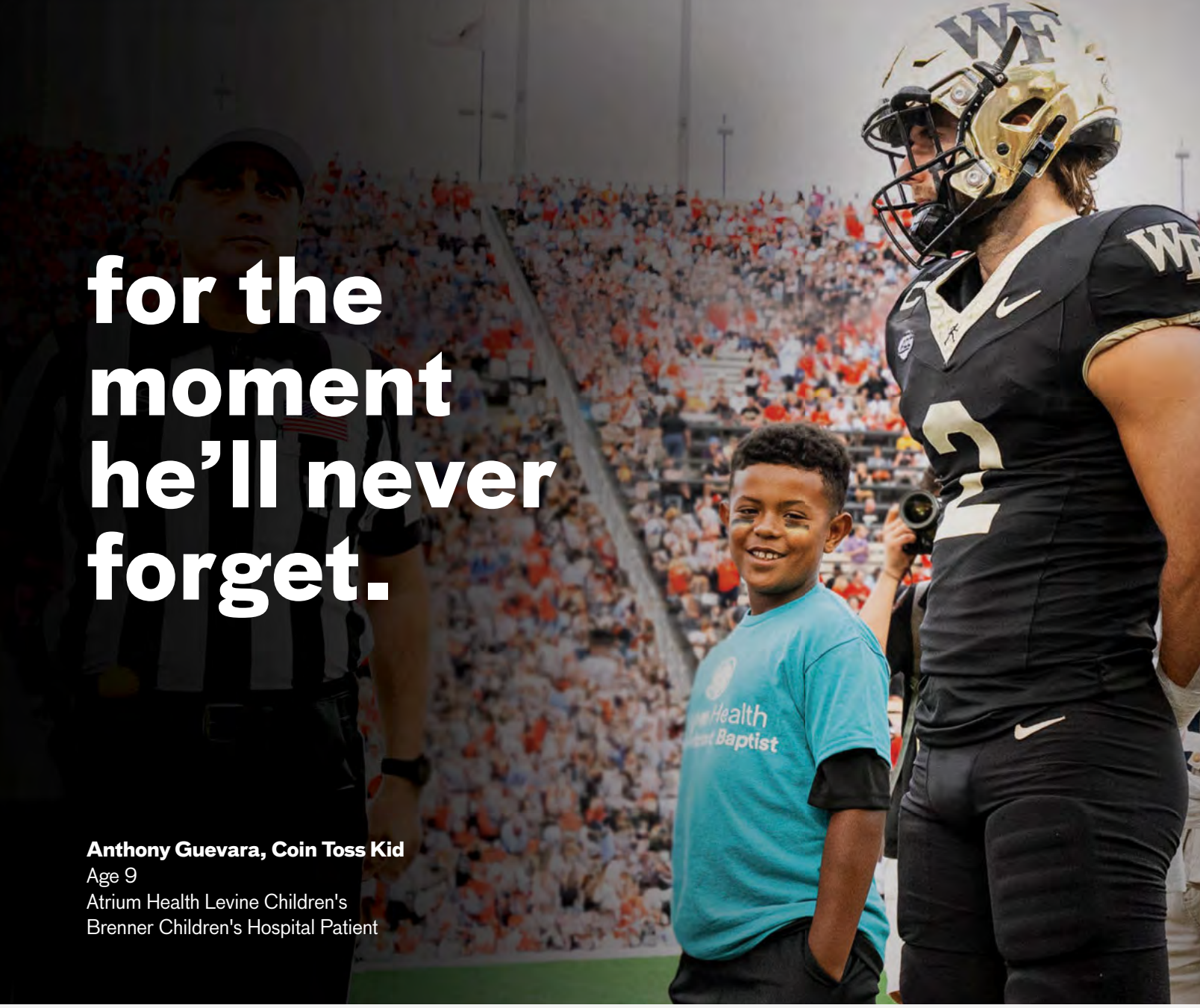

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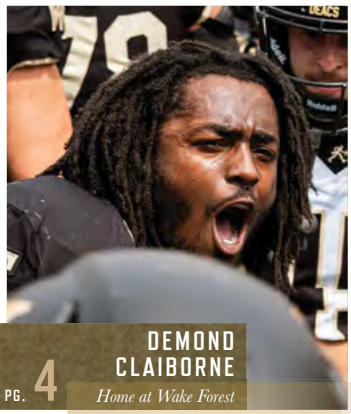

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The Official 2025 Wake Forest Football Yearbook

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
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DEMOND CLAIBORNE

Home at Wake Forest

Late January, at the Wake Forest Scholarship Celebration — an event designed to recognize the transformational nature of investing in a Wake Forest Athletics scholarship — Demon Deacon star running back Demond Claiborne bounded about the room flashing his million-dollar smile while mingling with donors, fellow student-athletes and administrators.

He was home at Wake Forest, where he was meant to be. A proverbial weight had been lifted off his shoulders and he couldn't have been more relieved and happier.

After the resignation of perhaps the most successful coach in Wake Forest Football history, Dave Clawson, followed by the hire of Jake Dickert as his successor by Wake Forest athletic director John Currie, Claiborne's phone number was dialed by countless agents and coaches, as well as friends and family inquiring about his future.

Even before Clawson's resignation, Claiborne had made a statement on social media that he was going to remain a Demon Deacon for his senior season. Still, the coaching change brought a new sense of hope to other programs looking to add one of the top returning running backs in all of college football.

On Jan. 7, Claiborne pushed all the speculation aside and announced, for a second time, that he was returning to play his final collegiate football season as a Demon Deacon.

Claiborne's decision to stay at Wake Forest didn't come down to flashy promises or NIL figures. Instead, it was the honest and personal approach from new head coach Jake Dickert that made the difference.

"The first thing I'll say is that I didn't give him a sales pitch," Dickert explained. "I just wanted to get to know him. I asked him about himself, his family, the struggles he's faced, why he came here, and how he's matured."

"It wasn't about touchdowns or money. It was about understanding who he is and who he wants to be."

That resonated deeply with Claiborne, who returned as the unquestioned centerpiece of the Demon Deacon offense after rushing for 1,049 yards and 11 touchdowns a season ago — just the 13th 1,000-yard campaign in school history. He also added two receiving touchdowns and a kickoff return score, finishing as one of the ACC's most dynamic all-purpose threats.

"It was amazing," Claiborne said. "Our entire conversation focused on how he could help me as a man. That really showed me who he was and why I chose to stay."

But the decision wasn't always so clear. In the era of the transfer portal and lucrative NIL deals, Claiborne had major offers elsewhere.

"During that process, I was offered millions of dollars to play football at other schools," he admitted. "But I've dedicated three years of my life to Wake Forest football. Just last year, I finally felt comfortable in terms of my social life, getting involved in the community, and connecting with others. I felt that what I needed to accomplish here wasn't finished yet."

"I have a single mom and four brothers, so I want to make sure they're all taken care of. My mom picked up her third job the other day. If I had gone further south, it would've been so much harder for her to travel. Here, she can drive three and a half hours and be in the stands. That mattered."

That choice to stay sparked a renewed fire. Claiborne leaned into the offseason with fresh energy, working with new running backs coach Effrem Reed and strength coach Ben Iannacchione to become the best version of himself — on and

off the field — epitomizing the cultural identity of "Built in the Dark," even before it was revealed in late July.

"The change has been amazing — from nutrition to strength training, all around," Claiborne said. "Coach Dickert has come in and changed this program, and it's definitely made me a better man in just the three months he's been here."

"The energy from my teammates is amazing. (Wake Forest director of strength and conditioning) Coach Ben (Iannacchione) has been in my life for just a short while, and he's already my guy. Whenever I'm doing something, I text him instantly."

"He gives me feedback and supports me on this journey, letting me know he's there to help me grow as a person. I truly appreciate him and his staff."

Local media couldn't help but ask coach Effrem Reed to compare Claiborne to former Demon Deacon Kenneth Walker III, whom he coached at Michigan State in 2021.

"He's one of those guys who make your job a lot easier when he's got the ball in his hands," Reed said about Claiborne. "Just coach him up, tell him what to do, and he goes out there and does it — plus some."

Still, Reed made it clear: the goal is not just greatness — it's refinement.

"The key is putting him in situations where I think he needs to improve," Reed explained. "I make sure he gets every pass-block rep out there. With some of the run schemes he's already mastered, we move on to the next deal. It's about developing in a controlled environment and then moving to the next thing."

That mindset has helped Claiborne sharpen his game while also gaining trust in a staff that is just as committed to his personal growth.

"From a physical standpoint, ball is going to be ball," Claiborne said. "But the greatest thing about these coaches is they want to help me more as a man. If I'm not having the best day, they say, 'Let's work through it.'"

The team's nutritional support has evolved, too, thanks in part to Claiborne's advocacy.

"I made it clear to Coach Dickert in our first meeting that we needed more in terms of nutrition," he said. "They responded. We've got sandwiches in the team room now, and they brought in an air fryer and a panini press. They're committed to helping us perform."

He's taken his offseason seriously, from sprint mechanics to bulking up without losing quickness.

"The hardest part for me during training has been sprinting drills," Claiborne admitted. "I like to stay low as a running back, but they want me tall and locked out during sprints. They're not just piling weight on me — they're evaluating how I move."

On the academic side, Claiborne is pushing just as hard. In an effort to graduate this December, he took 16 credits in the spring, eight in the summer, and then 16 more in the fall.

"It's not how I expected my senior year to unfold, but I know something good is waiting on the other side," he said. "I just have to keep chopping away."

On the field, the changes have been just as significant. Wake's new offensive approach emphasizes pace, decisiveness, and explosive opportunities for its playmakers — especially Claiborne. Dickert and Wake Forest offensive coordinator Rob Ezell have made it clear that Claiborne will be used all over the field.

"He had a vision for me," Claiborne said. "Even during install, we talked about formations and concepts that suit my style — getting downhill, one cut and go. After three years of having to know everything the quarterback knew for the slow mesh, this offense is about playing fast."

> *"A lot of teams are going to have to pick their poison. Do you want to die to the running game, to the running back, or to the quarterback? Once we get our receivers healthy and get rolling, we're going to hit the ground running."*
>
> *Demond Claiborne*

That team-first mindset comes naturally to Claiborne, who draws strength from the players around him.

"Even on tough mornings, I'm eager to be around this group," he said. "Their energy is contagious. Everyone is working, and it's a developmental program. If you're a freshman and you're ready to play, you'll play."

That openness — on and off the field — is what has kept Claiborne grounded in Winston-Salem.

"If the transfer portal wasn't a thing, people would have to learn to work through things. That's what I want," he said. "To go through the hard times and come out better."

As for this fall?

"A lot of teams are going to have to pick their poison," he said with a grin. "Do you want to die to the running game, to the running back, or to the quarterback? Once we get our receivers healthy and get rolling, we're going to hit the ground running."

For Claiborne, Wake Forest is no longer just a place to play — it's a program that's helped him become a better man.

"I wouldn't trade this decision for anything in the world," he said. "Clearly, I made the best choice."

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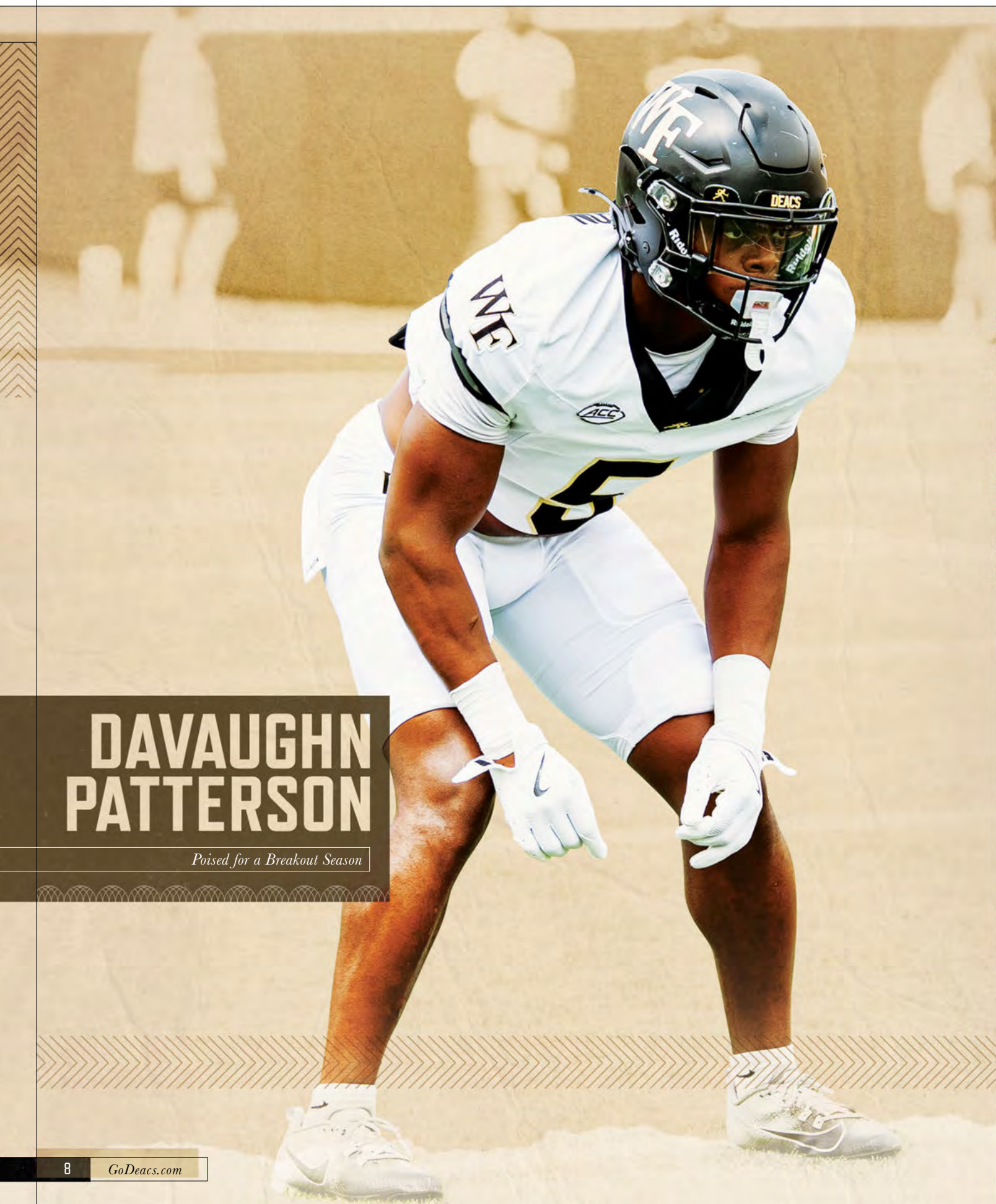

DAVAUGHN PATTERSON

Poised for a Breakout Season

t certainly didn't take much cajoling for Wake Forest head coach Jake Dickert and his new staff to earn complete buy-in from returning redshirt sophomore defensive back Davaughn Patterson.

Already known as an aggressive, hard-hitting defender, the energy and vibe created with the mid-December leadership changeover was all it took to motivate Patterson to propel himself forward to the next step in his career.

Just a couple of months later, when the pads were on and tackling was allowed during spring camp, it was Patterson again propelling forward — delivering a big blow and jarring the ball loose. He finished a camp in which he ingested knowledge of several positions in the secondary with multiple interceptions, and is entering the 2025 campaign as one of the top safeties in the ACC.

"Davaughn Patterson is a flat-out pro in how he approaches everything," Dickert said. "I've rarely had a player like that — he could probably play all five positions back there."

Patterson's versatility is a core strength of the Wake Forest defense. He broke out last season as a redshirt freshman, finishing fourth on the team with 74 tackles, including 3.5 for loss, while also recording a forced fumble, an interception, and three pass breakups. He's the epitome of a Swiss Army knife — someone who can drop deep in coverage to defend ACC elite receivers, crash downhill to shut down running backs, or surprise an unsuspecting quarterback off the edge.

Now, with a full offseason under the new staff, Patterson looks poised for a true breakout season that could put the entire conference on notice.

"Obviously, the main change was the energy shift — always coming in every day with high energy, trying to bring people along with you and just create a positive environment," Patterson said. "But at the same time, we were also creating a competitive environment. That was one of the biggest changes I liked throughout the process of the new spring camp."

That balance of positivity, paired with competition, energy, and intentionality, was evident in every aspect of Dickert's first spring in Winston-Salem. Players were pushed, standards were raised, and guys like Patterson thrived.

"My teammates and the coaches — they bring it out of everybody," Patterson said. "We all want the best for each other. We all want to see each other doing well and making plays out there. So, when everyone is out there making plays, the energy just goes up, and you naturally want to follow it and lift your teammates up."

Patterson didn't just absorb the new system — he embraced every piece of it. Coaches tested his mental capacity and positional versatility throughout the spring.

"For me, I always take it as a challenge to see how fast I can learn and how much I can absorb," he said. "They told me they were going to challenge me with different responsibilities, and I challenged myself even more. I think it definitely makes it easier for me to know what everybody else is doing on the field. That just makes it more enjoyable to be out there pushing myself."

Though still just a redshirt sophomore, Patterson has embraced a leadership role, working alongside Nick Andersen in a defensive back room filled with a complex mix of returners and new faces. While the two veteran safeties lead in different ways, Patterson is quickly finding his voice.

"I've definitely improved my situational awareness, and I've become more vocal on the field," Patterson said. "It's all about communicating. You can never have enough communication. I try to emphasize that a lot, because the more you talk, the easier it is out there."

That leadership bleeds into team bonding, too. Whether it's offseason lifts or grueling conditioning runs, Patterson is invested in building relationships that translate to trust between the white lines.

"We've been having a lot of team runs and exercises to really create that bond," he said. "Going through tough workouts and lifts is bringing us closer, and that's playing a significant role."

"Injuries have unfortunately been an issue—this year, last year, every year," he said. "But the main key is keeping the next guy ready. I think we do a good job helping our younger guys stay updated and come along with us."

Patterson had options. The college football world is constantly shifting, and with coaching transitions often come player departures. However, Patterson never seriously wavered.

> *"As far as coming back, I have a special place in my heart for Wake. They were the biggest team that offered me and really showed interest. Even with the coaching staff leaving, I had to give Wake Forest a chance. The new coaching staff came in and exceeded my expectations."*
>
> *Davaughn Patterson*

"For me, it's never really been about the money," he said. "Talking on the phone with coach Dickert and (assistant coach, safeties) coach (Freddie) Banks — especially during those Zoom calls — made a difference. That first call, he conveyed things that really drew me to him. He talked about our day-to-day lives, what we should believe in, and laid out the game plan."

"As far as coming back, I have a special place in my heart for Wake. They were the biggest team that offered me and really showed interest. Even with the coaching staff leaving, I had to give Wake Forest a chance. The new coaching staff came in and exceeded my expectations."

With that belief came renewed urgency. The Demon Deacons are coming off back-to-back 4-8 seasons, something Patterson and the rest of the returning leaders are determined to change.

"Some of my key takeaways mainly involve building off what we've experienced," he said. "We've been 4-8 the last two years, so I focus on what we can do to avoid that moving forward. It starts now — building relationships, making sure we're all locked in, and establishing trust."

"We still have a lot of leaders from last year, and we've had new leaders emerge. Nick Andersen, I, Demond [Claiborne], Fa'alili Fa'amoe, Devin Kylany — everyone is stepping up. I believe the more people we have buying into the program, the more successful we'll be."

Patterson's goals are clear, both individually and collectively. He is determined to be more disruptive defensively by increasing his fumbles forced and interceptions numbers from the previous season. While Patterson might be the one potentially earning the accolades, he believes heavily in his teammates in the secondary.

"I believe the safety room is definitely going to thrive," he said. "It's never been a problem for our safety group to take the next step or elevate the defense. I feel like the safety room is one of the strongest, smartest units on the field. We need to take control of the defense."

"I feel like this spring, the whole secondary balled out. We competed, and we showed that we could be one of the top secondaries in the country."

The focus moving forward?

"Communication and limiting big plays," Patterson said. "If you're not communicating, you're at risk of giving up big plays, and we had a few of those last year. So that's what we've been working on."

He credits the chemistry in the secondary, the leadership from veteran players, and the buy-in from transfers and underclassmen alike for setting the table. With the physical work being matched by mental preparation, Patterson believes the Wake Forest defense "Built in the Dark" can turn heads in 2025.

"There's no other feeling like that first day getting back in pads," he said. "You go so long without them. I'd been away from them for so long. When you finally get back in pads, it lets you know the season is getting close. It just shifts the gear in my head."

It's been a journey for Patterson — one that he doesn't take for granted.

"I'm just thankful for the journey and for the opportunity," he said. "I've always dreamed of being in this position, so I try to remind myself of that as much as I can. This is exactly what I dreamed and prayed for."

As he enters what could be a defining year in his college career, Patterson is motivated by gratitude, competition, and belief — belief in his teammates, in his coaches, and in the program.

"I like helping my team however I can," he said. "It's fun for me to play different positions and try to impact the game from multiple perspectives. I like it when teams on the field are pointing at me, saying, 'Watch 13, watch 5.' That always gives me more juice to go out there and play hard."

2025 SCHEDULE

Demon Deacons Football

AUG. 29 / 7 P.M. — **KENNESAW STATE**
Winston-Salem, N.C. / Allegacy Federal Credit Union Stadium
Sponsored by Winston-Salem Police Department

SEPT. 6 / 2 P.M. — **WESTERN CAROLINA**
Winston-Salem, N.C. / Allegacy Federal Credit Union Stadium
Sponsored by Strickland Brothers

SEPT. 11 / 7:30 P.M. — **NC STATE**
Winston-Salem, N.C. / Allegacy Federal Credit Union Stadium
Sponsored by Pepsi

SEPT. 27 / TIME TBA — **GEORGIA TECH**
Winston-Salem, N.C. / Allegacy Federal Credit Union Stadium
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OCT. 4 / TIME TBA — **VIRGINIA TECH**
Blacksburg, Va. / Lane Stadium

OCT. 11 / TIME TBA — **OREGON STATE**
Corvallis, Ore. / Reser Stadium

OCT. 25 / TIME TBA — **SMU**
Winston-Salem, N.C. / Allegacy Federal Credit Union Stadium
Sponsored by Lowes Foods

NOV. 1 / TIME TBA — **FLORIDA STATE**
Tallahassee, Fla. / Doak S. Campbell Stadium

NOV. 8 / TIME TBA — **VIRGINIA**
Charlottesville, Va. / Scott Stadium

NOV. 15 / TIME TBA — **NORTH CAROLINA**
Winston-Salem, N.C. / Allegacy Federal Credit Union Stadium
Sponsored by Allegacy Federal Credit Union

NOV. 22 / TIME TBA — **DELAWARE**
Winston-Salem, N.C. / Allegacy Federal Credit Union Stadium
Sponsored by Mountcastle Insurance

NOV. 29 / TIME TBA — **DUKE**
Durham, N.C. / Wallace Wade Stadium

DEMOND CLAIBORNE, *senior running back from Aylett, Virginia.*

2025 ROSTER

Numerical Roster

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN
1	Demond Claiborne	RB	5-10	195	Sr.	Aylett, Va.
2	Robby Ashford	QB	6-2	220	R-Sr.	Hoover, Ala.
2	Jaylon Edmond	DB	5-9	171	R-Fr.	Carson, Calif.
3	Jamario Clements	RB	5-11	205	R-Sr.	Lafayette, Ga.
3	Karon Prunty	DB	6-2	192	R-Sr.	Portsmouth, Va.
4	Sterling Berkhalter	WR	6-3	203	R-Sr.	Cincinnati, Ohio
4	Sascha Garcia	DB	6-2	192	R-So.	Clinton, Md.
5	Davaughn Patterson	DB	6-0	217	R-So.	Jacksonville, Fla.
5	Deshawn Purdie	QB	6-4	228	So.	Baltimore, Md.
6	Steele Pizzella	QB	5-11	180	Fr.	Simi Valley, Calif.
6	Rushaun Tongue	DB	6-1	193	R-So.	Pasadena, Md.
7	Nuer Gatkuoth	DL	6-3	237	R-Jr.	Edmonton, Alberta
7	Micah Mays Jr.	WR	6-2	196	R-So.	Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
8	Carlos Hernandez	WR	6-0	192	Jr.	Alhambra, Calif.
8	Jayden Loving	DL	6-2	317	R-Sr.	Hamilton, Ala.
9	Quincy Bryant	LB	6-0	228	R-Sr.	Lilburn, Ga.
9	Sawyer Racanelli	WR	6-3	208	R-Sr.	Brush Prairie, Wash.
10	Chris Barnes	WR	5-7	168	R-Fr.	Houston, Texas
10	Gabe Kirschke	DL	6-5	249	R-Jr.	Lone Tree, Colo.
11	Langston Hardy	DL	6-4	250	R-Jr.	Jacksonville, Fla.
11	Reginald Vick Jr.	WR	6-3	198	R-Jr.	Wendell, N.C.
12	Kamrean Johnson	TE	6-5	230	Jr.	Theodore, Ala.
12	Jaxon Mull	DB	5-10	180	R-Jr.	Fort Wayne, Ind.
13	Jeremiah Melvin	WR	6-4	195	R-Fr.	Fayetteville, N.C.
13	Ashaad Williams	DB	6-2	178	R-Sr.	Russellville, Ala.
14	Karate Brenson	WR	6-2	215	R-Sr.	St. Louis, Mo.
14	Lardarius Webb Jr.	DB	5-9	168	R-Sr.	Opelika, Ala.
15	Devin Cook	DB	5-11	170	R-Fr.	Chesapeake, Va.
15	Elijiah Oehlke	QB	6-2	223	Fr.	Fayetteville, N.C.
17	Billy Johnson	QB	5-11	180	R-So.	Atherton, Calif.
17	Zamari Stevenson	DB	5-10	180	Jr.	Statesville, N.C.
18	EJ Reid	WR	5-8	178	R-Fr.	Woodbridge, Va.
18	BJ Williams	DL	6-4	273	R-Sr.	Johnston, S.C.
20	Zeek Jackson	WR	5-6	158	R-So.	Baltimore, Md.
20	Braxton Winston III	DB	6-0	175	Fr.	Charlotte, N.C.
21	Aiden Hall	LB	6-0	231	Jr.	Birmingham, Ala.
22	Myles Turpin	DB	5-11	202	So.	Ashburn, Va.
23	Ty Clark III	RB	6-0	207	So.	Nashville, Tenn.
23	Braylon Johnson	DB	6-1	185	R-So.	Richmond, Va.
24	Dylan Hazen	LB	6-1	239	R-Sr.	The Woodlands, Texas
25	Harry Lodge	TE	6-6	240	R-Jr.	Cambridge, Mass.
26	Freddie Gillens	DB	6-0	171	Fr.	Columbia, S.C.
26	Drew Pickett	RB	5-10	186	R-So.	Montgomery, Ala.
27	Travon West	DB	6-0	185	R-So.	Piedmont, S.C.
28	Jacob Cosby-Mosley	DB	5-11	197	R-Fr.	West Palm Beach, Fla.
28	David Egbe	RB	5-10	206	R-So.	Millstone, N.J.
29	Jamar Searcy	RB	5-8	180	Fr.	Pittsburg, Calif.
29	William Wiebush	DB	6-0	182	Fr.	Franklin, Tenn.
30	Jerron Blackwell	DB	6-2	190	Fr.	Greensboro, N.C.
30	Tate Carney	RB	6-0	207	R-Jr.	Davie County, N.C.
32	Will Cobb	LS	5-10	201	R-Sr.	Matthews, N.C.
34	Darius Jones	LB	6-1	224	R-Fr.	Baltimore, Md.
35	Koredell Bartley	DB	5-11	173	Fr.	Greensboro, N.C.
36	Seth Carethers	DB	6-0	165	Fr.	Coppell, Texas
37	William Tackie Jr.	DB	5-11	203	R-So.	Durham, N.C.
38	Anthony Borriello	DB	5-11	203	R-Sr.	Shrewsbury, N.J.
39	Ryan Henley	RB	5-9	199	R-Fr.	Charlotte, N.C.
39	Joel Lowenberg	LB	6-2	210	Fr.	Chattanooga, Tenn.
40	Whittman Whaley	LB	6-2	222	R-Fr.	Sevierville, Tenn.
41	Kalil Townes	DB	5-10	200	Fr.	Atlanta, Ga.
42	Tyler Walton	DL	6-5	265	R-So.	Suwanee, Ga.
43	Mason Andrade	RB	5-11	222	R-Jr.	Watertown, Mass.
43	Frank Cusano	LB	6-2	222	R-Fr.	Granite Bay, Calif.
44	Matthew Lusardi	TE	6-1	247	R-Jr.	Basking Ridge, N.J.
44	Alec Marenco	LB	6-2	234	R-Sr.	El Paso, Texas
45	Nick Andersen	DB	5-11	197	Sr.	Clifton, Va.
46	Kevin Check	TE	6-5	227	R-Jr.	McLean, Va.
46	Kerrington Lee	DL	6-4	252	R-So.	Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
48	Cole Funderburk	DL	6-3	235	Fr.	Suwanee, Ga.
48	Wesley Stroebel	WR	6-1	184	R-Jr.	Cedarburg, Wis.
49	Eli Gilmour	LS	6-3	218	R-Fr.	San Diego, Calif.
50	Ja'Marion Kennedy	OL	6-3	323	R-So.	Shreveport, La.
51	Devin McRae	OL	6-3	294	R-So.	McRae, Ga.
51	Luke White	LB	6-0	217	R-Jr.	Los Gatos, Calif.
52	Dallas Afalava	DL	6-1	291	Jr.	Seattle, Wash.
52	Uber Ajongo	OL	6-6	308	R-So.	Ottawa, Ontario
55	Kadear Dembele	DL	6-3	285	Fr.	West Haven, Conn.
55	Jacob Dennison	OL	6-5	306	R-Sr.	Mansfield, Ohio
59	Brandon Hoyle	DL	6-2	259	R-Jr.	Shelby, N.C.
60	Will Saba	OL	6-5	272	Fr.	Purcellville, Va.
62	Jaishaun Offutt	OL	6-3	342	Fr.	Winchester, Va.
65	Clinton Richard	OL	6-3	300	R-Fr.	Hiram, Ga.
66	Cale Doyle	OL	6-3	307	R-Jr.	Chagrin Falls, Ohio
67	Elliot Demaine	OL	6-7	280	Fr.	Ottawa, Ontario
68	Luke Beemer	OL	6-3	313	R-Fr.	Nashville, Tenn.
70	Devin Kylany	OL	6-4	319	R-Sr.	Lake Stevens, Wash.
71	Melvin Siani	OL	6-6	302	R-So.	Hamilton, Ontario
72	Aidan Martin	OL	6-6	265	Fr.	Denver, Colo.
73	George Steih	OL	6-5	295	R-So.	Franklin, Tenn.
74	Nathan Pahanich	OL	6-4	291	Fr.	Princeton, N.J.
75	Derrell Johnson II	OL	6-3	306	R-Jr.	Jacksonville, Fla.
77	George Sell	OL	6-4	303	R-Sr.	Chagrin Falls, Ohio
78	Jack Hines	OL	6-7	311	R-Fr.	Avon, Conn.
79	Fa'alili Fa'amoe	OL	6-5	317	R-Sr.	Pago Pago, American Samoa
80	Ben Grice	WR	6-0	194	So.	Atlanta, Ga.
81	Bryce Kania	WR	6-4	200	Fr.	Chatham, N.J.
82	Hugh O'Brien	WR	6-0	190	Fr.	Charlotte, N.C.
83	Austin Rinello	WR	5-11	165	Fr.	Greenwich, Conn.
84	Eni Falayi	TE	6-4	240	R-Sr.	Boston, Mass.
85	Will Loerzel	TE	6-5	244	R-Fr.	New Orleans, La.
85	Jake Ryan	DB	6-0	199	R-Fr.	Minden, Neb.
86	Dominic DeLuca	TE	6-6	250	R-Fr.	Greenwich, Conn.
87	Charlie Wingfield	TE	6-4	239	Fr.	Franklin Lakes, N.J.
88	Ian VerSteeg	WR	6-0	183	R-Jr.	Severn, Md.
89	Jack Foley	WR	6-4	205	Fr.	Bend, Ore.
90	Connor Calvert	K	6-3	203	R-Fr.	Bend, Ore.
90	Camden Hardy	DL	6-3	231	R-Fr.	Jacksonville, Fla.
91	Cal Joseph	P	6-0	173	Fr.	Melbourne, Australia
92	Ka'Shawn Thomas	DL	6-1	292	R-So.	Brunswick, Ga.
93	Josh Harrison	DL	6-2	248	R-Fr.	Greenville, S.C.
94	Zach Lohavichan	DL	6-3	285	R-Sr.	Charlotte, N.C.
95	Brandon Smiley	DL	6-2	306	R-Jr.	Durham, N.C.
96	Kendal Howard	DL	6-3	259	R-Fr.	Troutville, Va.
96	Jack Ploszay	P	6-2	191	R-Fr.	Malvern, Pa.
97	Caleb Carlson	K	6-1	210	R-Jr.	Miami, Fla.
97	Josiah Pratt	DL	6-0	315	Fr.	Houston, Texas
98	Wyatt Crespi	DL	6-1	280	R-Sr.	Concord, Calif.
98	Rohan MacNeill	P	6-3	187	R-So.	Perth, Australia
99	Matthew Dennis	K	5-11	207	R-Sr.	Charlotte, N.C.
99	Mateen Ibirogba	DL	6-3	296	R-Jr.	Clarksburg, Md.

MEET THE DEMON DEACONS

2025 Football Team

1 RB

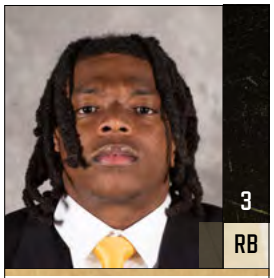
DEMOND CLAIBORNE
Sr. - Aylett, Va.

2 QB

ROBBY ASHFORD
R-Sr. - Hoover, Ala.

2 DB

JAYLON EDMOND
R-Fr. - Carson, Calif.



3 RB

JAMARIO CLEMENTS
R-Sr. - Lafayette, Ga.

3 DB

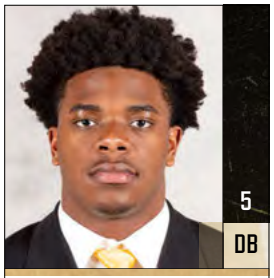
KARON PRUNTY
R-Sr. - Portsmouth, Va.

4 WR

STERLING BERKHALTER
R-Sr. - Cincinnati, Ohio

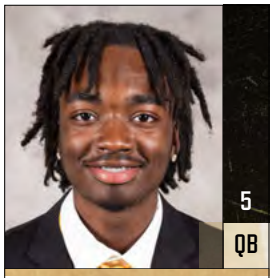
4 DB

SASCHA GARCIA
R-So. - Clinton, Md.



5 DB

DAVAUGHN PATTERSON
R-So. - Jacksonville, Fla.

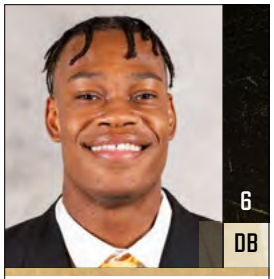


5 QB

DESHAWN PURDIE
So. - Baltimore, Md.

6 QB

STEELE PIZZELLA
Fr. - Simi Valley, Calif.



6 DB

RUSHAUN TONGUE
R-So. - Pasadena, Md.

7 DL

NUER GATKUOTH
R-Jr. - Edmonton, Alberta

7 WR

MICAH MAYS JR.
R-So. - Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

8 WR

CARLOS HERNANDEZ
Jr. - Alhambra, Calif.

8 DL

JAYDEN LOVING
R-Sr. - Hamilton, Ala.

9 LB

QUINCY BRYANT
R-Sr. - Lilburn, Ga.

9 WR

SAWYER RACANELLI
R-Sr. - Brush Prairie, Wash.

10 WR

CHRIS BARNES
R-Fr. - Houston, Texas

10 DL

GABE KIRSCHKE
R-Jr. - Lone Tree, Colo.

11 DL

LANGSTON HARDY
R-Jr. - Jacksonville, Fla.

11 WR

REGINALD VICK JR.
R-Jr. - Wendell, N.C.

12 TE

KAMREAN JOHNSON
Jr. - Theodore, Ala.

12 DB

JAXON MULL
R-Jr. - Fort Wayne, Ind.

13 WR

JEREMIAH MELVIN
R-Fr. - Fayetteville, N.C

13 DB

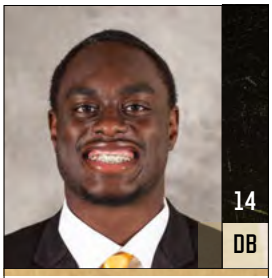
ASHAAD WILLIAMS
R-Sr. - Russellville, Ala.

MEET THE DEMON DEACONS

2025 Football Team

14 WR

KARATE BRENSON
R-Sr. - St. Louis, Mo.



14 DB

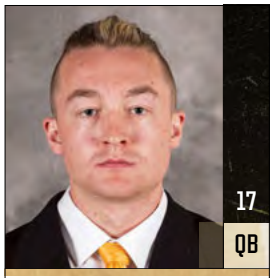
LARDARIUS WEBB JR.
R-Sr. - Opelika, Ala.

15 DB

DEVIN COOK
R-Fr. - Chesapeake, Va.

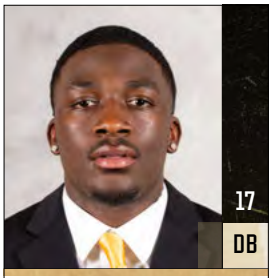
15 QB

ELIJIAH OEHLKE
Fr. - Fayetteville, N.C.



17 QB

BILLY JOHNSON
R-So. - Atherton, Calif.



17 DB

ZAMARI STEVENSON
Jr. - Statesville, N.C.

18 WR

EJ REID
R-Fr. - Woodbridge, Va.

18 DL

BJ WILLIAMS
R-Sr. - Johnston, S.C.

20 WR

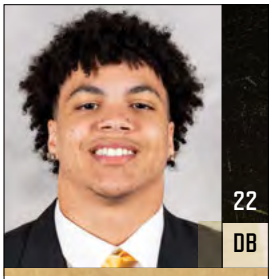
ZEEK JACKSON
R-So. - Baltimore, Md.

20 DB

BRAXTON WINSTON III
Fr. - Charlotte, N.C.

21 LB

AIDEN HALL
Jr. - Birmingham, Ala.

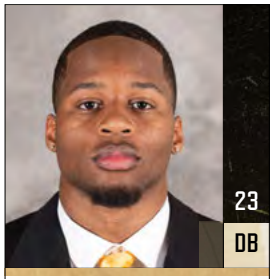


22 DB

MYLES TURPIN
So. - Ashburn, Va.

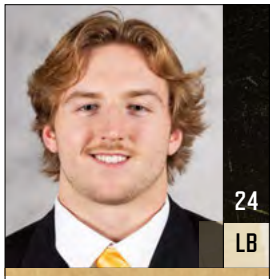
23 RB

TY CLARK III
So. - Nashville, Tenn.



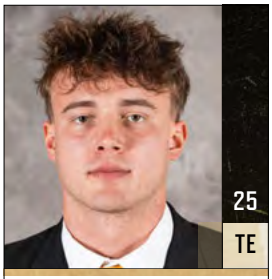
23 DB

BRAYLON JOHNSON
R-So. - Richmond, Va.



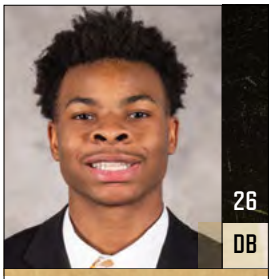
24 LB

DYLAN HAZEN
R-Sr. - The Woodlands, Texas



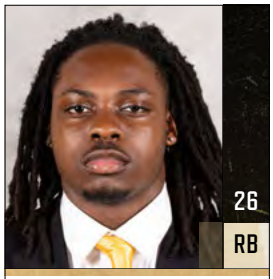
25 TE

HARRY LODGE
R-Jr. - Cambridge, Mass.



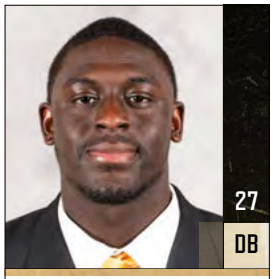
26 DB

FREDDIE GILLENS
Fr. - Columbia, S.C.



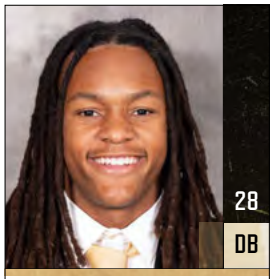
26 RB

DREW PICKETT
R-So. - Montgomery, Ala.



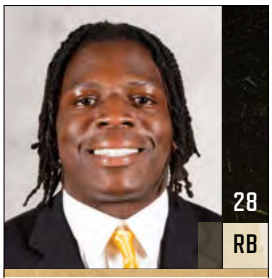
27 DB

TRAVON WEST
R-So. - Piedmont, S.C.



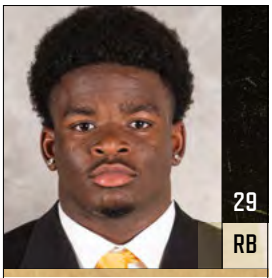
28 DB

JACOB COSBY-MOSLEY
R-Fr. - West Palm Beach, Fla.



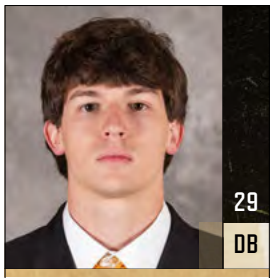
28 RB

DAVID EGBE
R-So. - Millstone, N.J.



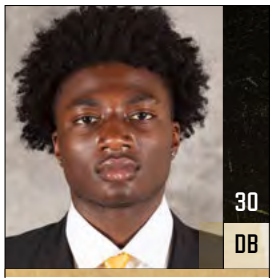
29 RB

JAMAR SEARCY
Fr. - Pittsburg, Calif.



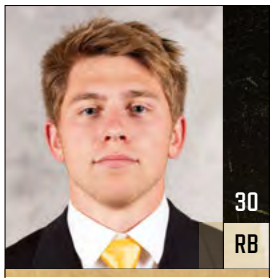
29 DB

WILLIAM WIEBUSH
Fr. - Franklin, Tenn.



30 DB

JERRON BLACKWELL
Fr. - Greensboro, N.C.

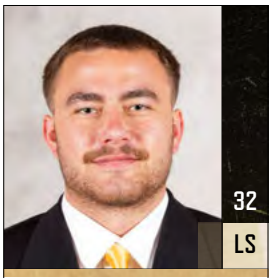


30 RB

TATE CARNEY
R-Jr. - Davie County, N.C.

MEET THE DEMON DEACONS

2025 Football Team

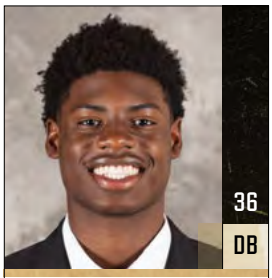


32 LS
WILL COBB
R-Sr. - Matthews, N.C.

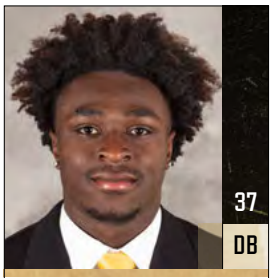
34 LB
DARIUS JONES
R-Fr. - Baltimore, Md.

35 DB
KOREDELL BARTLEY
Fr. - Greensboro, N.C.

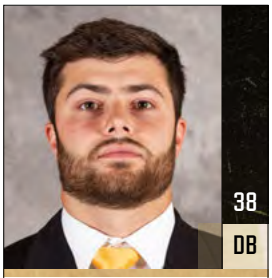
Head Coach **JAKE DICKERT** *leading practice at McCreary Field House.*



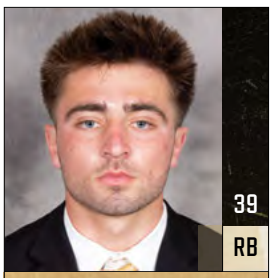
36 DB
SETH CARETHERS
Fr. - Coppell, Texas



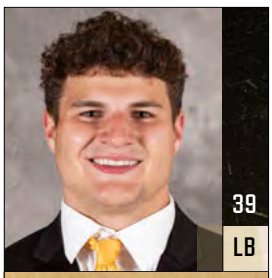
37 DB
WILLIAM TACKIE JR.
R-So. - Durham, N.C.



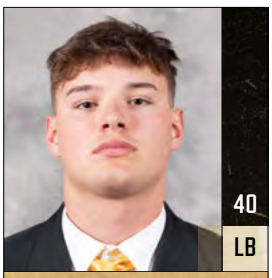
38 DB
ANTHONY BORRIELLO
R-Sr. - Shrewsbury, N.J.



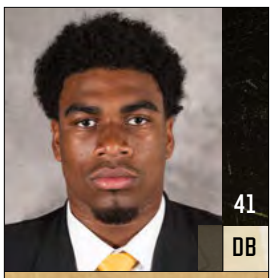
39 RB
RYAN HENLEY
R-Fr. - Charlotte, N.C.



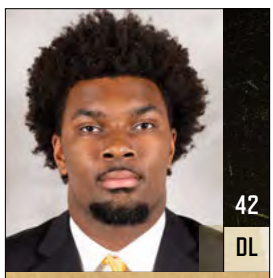
39 LB
JOEL LOWENBERG
Fr. - Chattanooga, Tenn.



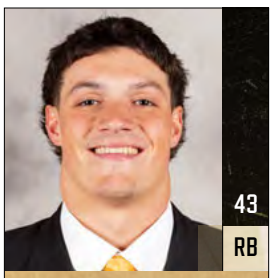
40 LB
WHITTMAN WHALEY
R-Fr. - Sevierville, Tenn.



41 DB
KALIL TOWNES
Fr. - Atlanta, Ga.



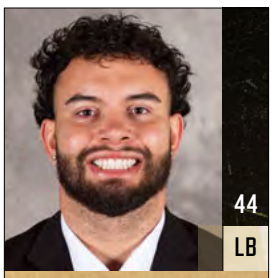
42 DL
TYLER WALTON
R-So. - Suwanee, Ga.



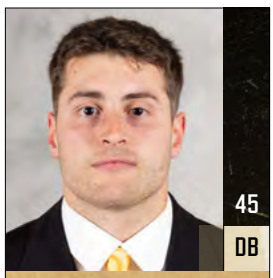
43 RB
MASON ANDRADE
R-Jr. - Watertown, Mass.

43 LB
FRANK CUSANO
R-Fr. - Granite Bay, Calif.

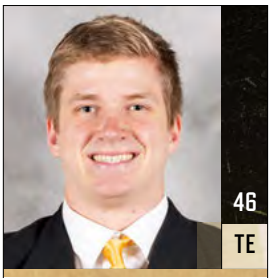
44 TE
MATTHEW LUSARDI
R-Jr. - Basking Ridge, N.J.



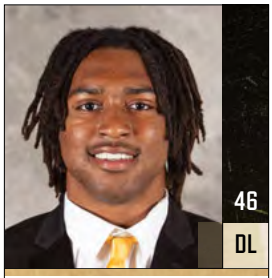
44 LB
ALEC MARENCO
R-Sr. - El Paso, Texas



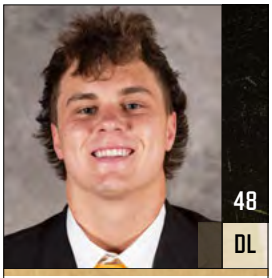
45 DB
NICK ANDERSEN
Sr. - Clifton, Va.



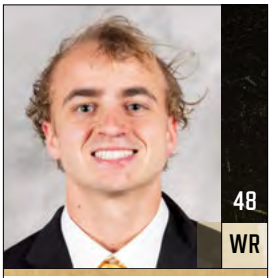
46 TE
KEVIN CHECK
R-Jr. - McLean, Va.



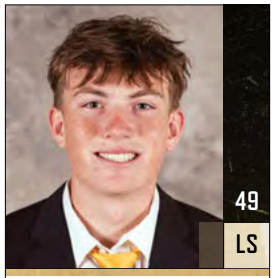
46 DL
KERRINGTON LEE
R-So. - Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.



48 DL
COLE FUNDERBURK
Fr. - Suwanee, Ga.



48 WR
WESLEY STROEBEL
R-Jr. - Cedarburg, Wis.



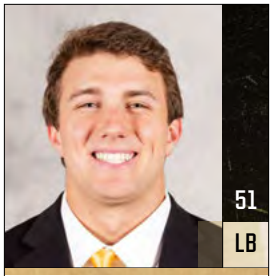
49 LS
ELI GILMOUR
R-Fr. - San Diego, Calif.

MEET THE DEMON DEACONS

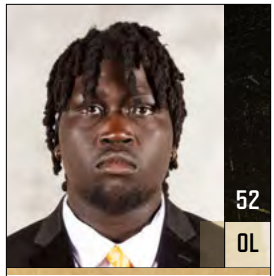
2025 Football Team

50 OL
JA'MARION KENNEDY
R-So. - Shreveport, La.

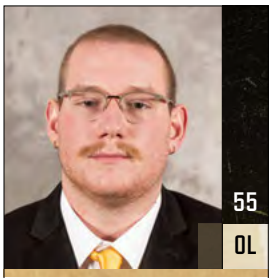
51 OL
DEVIN McRAE
R-So. - McRae, Ga.

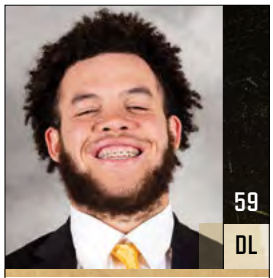

51 LB
LUKE WHITE
R-Jr. - Los Gatos, Calif.

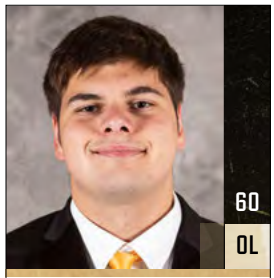
52 DL
DALLAS AFALAVA
Jr. - Seattle, Wash.

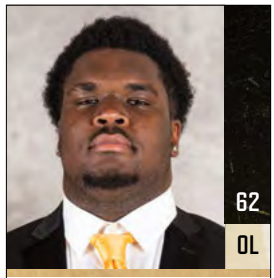

52 OL
UBER AJONGO
R-So. - Ottawa, Ontario

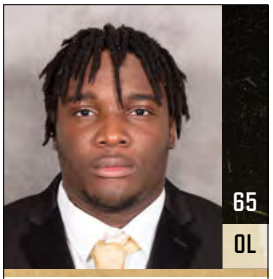
55 DL
KADEAR DEMBELE
Fr. - West Haven, Conn.

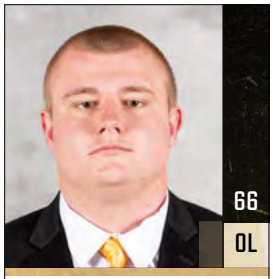

55 OL
JACOB DENNISON
R-Sr. - Mansfield, Ohio


59 DL
BRANDON HOYLE
R-Jr. - Shelby, N.C.

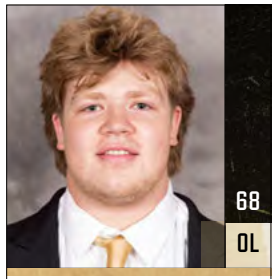

60 OL
WILL SABA
Fr. - Purcellville, Va.

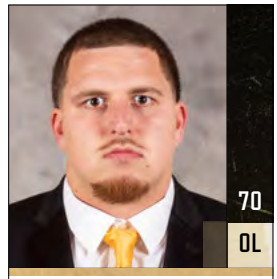

62 OL
JAISHAUN OFFUTT
Fr. - Winchester, Va.


65 OL
CLINTON RICHARD
R-Fr. - Hiram, Ga.


66 OL
CALE DOYLE
R-Jr. - Chagrin Falls, Ohio

67 OL
ELLIOT DEMAINE
Fr. - Ottawa, Ontario

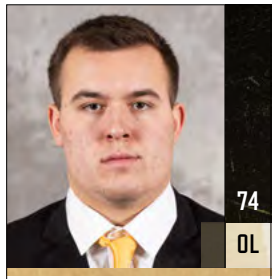

68 OL
LUKE BEEMER
R-Fr. - Nashville, Tenn.

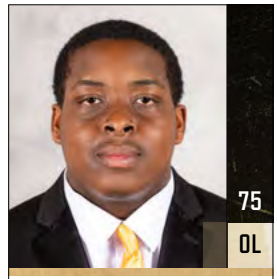

70 OL
DEVIN KYLANY
R-Sr. - Lake Stevens, Wash.

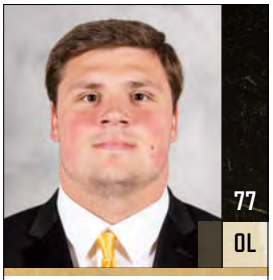
71 OL
MELVIN SIANI
R-So. - Hamilton, Ontario

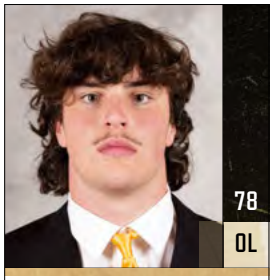
72 OL
AIDAN MARTIN
Fr. - Denver, Colo.

73 OL
GEORGE STEIH
R-So. - Franklin, Tenn.


74 OL
NATHAN PAHANICH
Fr. - Princeton, N.J.


75 OL
DERRELL JOHNSON II
R-Jr. - Jacksonville, Fla.


77 OL
GEORGE SELL
R-Sr. - Chagrin Falls, Ohio


78 OL
JACK HINES
R-Fr. - Avon, Conn.

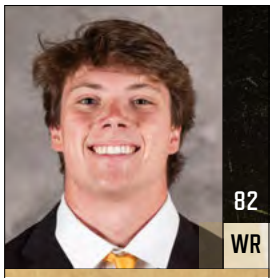
79 OL
FA'ALILI FA'AMOE
R-Sr. - Pago Pago, American Samoa

80 WR
BEN GRICE
So. - Atlanta, Ga.

81 WR
BRYCE KANIA
Fr. - Chatham, N.J.

MEET THE DEMON DEACONS

2025 Football Team

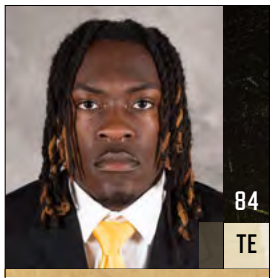


82 WR

HUGH O'BRIEN
Fr. - Charlotte, N.C.

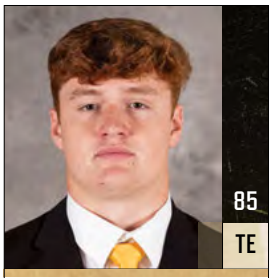
83 WR

AUSTIN RINELLO
Fr. - Greenwich, Conn.



84 TE

ENI FALAYI
R-Sr. - Boston, Mass.



85 TE

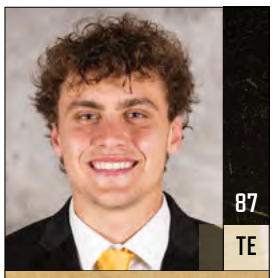
WILL LOERZEL
R-Fr. - New Orleans, La.

85 DB

JAKE RYAN
R-Fr. - Minden, Neb.

86 TE

DOMINIC DELUCA
R-Fr. - Greenwich, Conn.

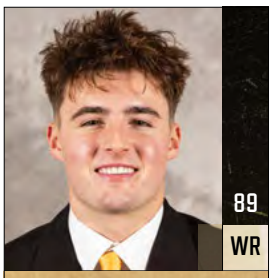


87 TE

CHARLIE WINGFIELD
Fr. - Franklin Lakes, N.J.

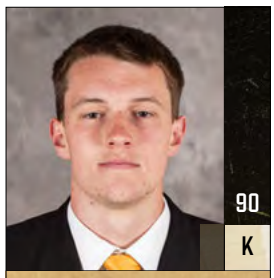
88 WR

IAN VERSTEEG
R-Jr. - Severn, Md.



89 WR

JACK FOLEY
Fr. - Bend, Ore.



90 K

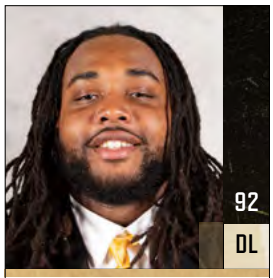
CONNOR CALVERT
R-Fr. - Bend, Ore.

90 DL

CAMDEN HARDY
R-Fr. - Jacksonville, Fla.

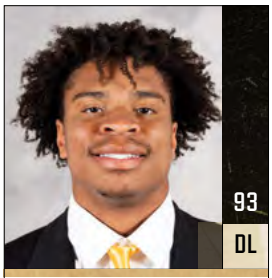
91 P

CAL JOSEPH
Fr. - Melbourne, Australia



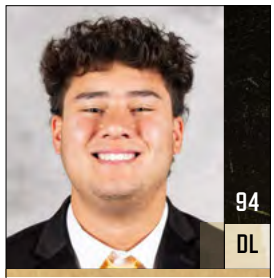
92 DL

KA'SHAWN THOMAS
R-So. - Brunswick, Ga.



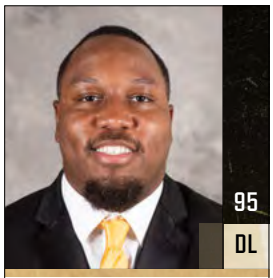
93 DL

JOSH HARRISON
R-Fr. - Greenville, S.C.



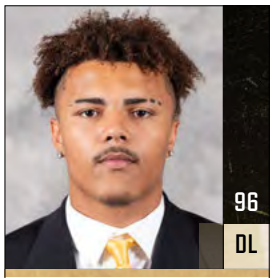
94 DL

ZACH LOHAVICHAN
R-Sr. - Charlotte, N.C.



95 DL

BRANDON SMILEY
R-Jr. - Durham, N.C.

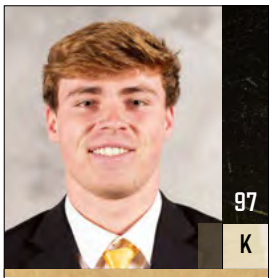


96 DL

KENDAL HOWARD
R-Fr. - Troutville, Va.

96 P

JACK PLOSZAY
R-Fr. - Malvern, Pa.



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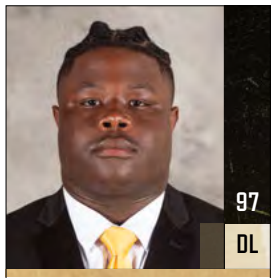
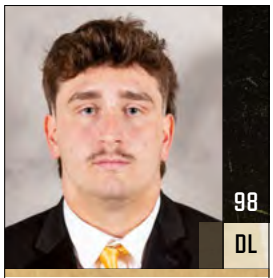
CALEB CARLSON
R-Jr. - Miami, Fla.



97 DL

JOSIAH PRATT
Fr. - Houston, Texas



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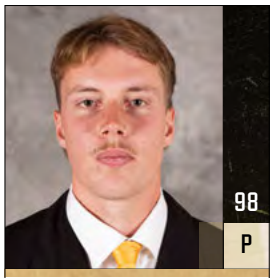
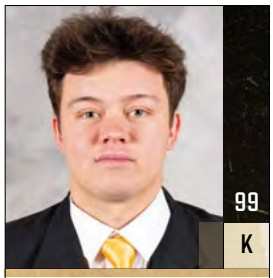
WYATT CRESPI
R-Sr. - Concord, Calif.



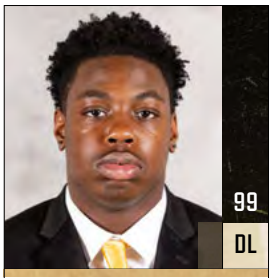
98 P

ROHAN MACNEILL
R-So. - Perth, Australia



99 K

MATTHEW DENNIS
R-Sr. - Charlotte, N.C.



99 DL

MATEEN IBIROGBA
R-Jr. - Clarksburg, Md.

HEAD COACH JAKE DICKERT

First Season

Jake Dickert was named the 33rd head coach of the Wake Forest football program on Dec. 18, 2024.

Dickert, who has been a college football coach for 17 seasons, has risen up the ranks, holding experience at nearly every level of the game. He has proven to be a consistent developer of NFL-caliber talent throughout his career while also winning at each of his coaching stops.

In four seasons as the head coach at Washington State, Dickert had a winning record and went to a bowl three times. His Cougars were ranked inside the top-20 each of the previous two seasons, climbing as high as No. 13 in 2023. Over the last three seasons, Dickert led the Cougars to a pair of wins in the Apple Cup versus arch-rival Washington, a pair of ranked wins over No. 19-ranked Wisconsin in 2022 and 2023 and a victory against No. 14 Oregon State in 2023. Additionally, his program tallied an impressive 14-6 record in non-conference play.

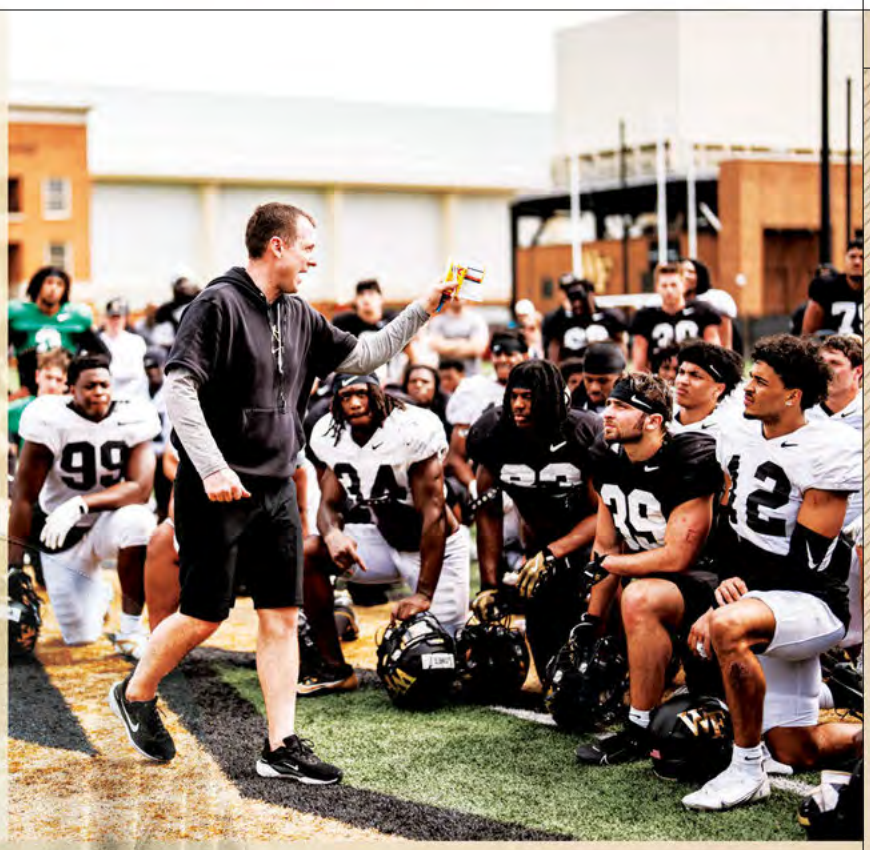
Dickert has coached seven players selected during the three previous NFL Drafts. Washington State's three draft picks in 2024 marked the most for the Cougars since 2005.

Since joining the FBS coaching ranks in 2017, Dickert's defenses have totaled 166 turnovers. That total ties the 10th most by any school in the country during that seven-year stretch and the only ACC school to have more was Clemson.

In the classroom, Washington State had 45 players earn Pac-12 Fall Academic Honor Roll honors (3.3 GPA or higher) in his first three seasons as head coach.

During Dickert's time in Pullman, he had multiple AFCA Good Works Teams, Allstate Wuerffel Trophy Semifinalists for their work around the university and in the community as well as semifinalists for the William V. Campbell Trophy, awarded to the college football player with the best combination of academics, community service and on-field performance.

During his time at the helm of the Washington State football program, Dickert accumulated a record of 23-20 (.535), reaching three bowl games in four seasons while also being nationally-ranked each of the past two seasons.



In 2024, Washington State jumped out to an historic start, winning eight of its first nine games of the season and climbing inside of the top-20 in the AP Poll. It marked the first time since 2018 that the Cougars started a season 8-1 or better and the lone loss during that stretch came to College Football Playoff qualifier Boise State on the road.

For the second-consecutive year, Dickert and Washington State claimed multiple non-conference wins over Power Four conference teams, defeating Texas Tech and Washington in consecutive weeks.

Washington State's offense was one of the best in the country over the last two seasons — led by different quarterbacks (Cam Ward, 2023 and John Mateer, 2024). The Cougars averaged over 31.0 points per game each of the last two seasons including having the No. 11 scoring offense in the country in 2024 with 36.8 points per game.

The 2023 season began 4-0 under Dickert, including wins over nationally-ranked No. 19 Wisconsin and No. 14 Oregon State. It marked the second-straight season Dickert led the Cougs to a win over the Badgers. With the help of the early wins, Dickert and Washington State climbed to as high as No. 13 in the AP Poll rankings, the highest ranking for the school since 2018.

A convincing 56-14 win over Colorado accounted for the Cougar's fifth win of the season; for the year, four of WSU's seven losses came by one possession. The Cougar defense continued its aggressive play from previous years as Washington State led the nation in defensive touchdowns with five on the season, the third-most defensive scores dating back to the 1996 season. In the 2024 NFL Draft, three Cougars were drafted, led by safety Jaden Hicks to Kansas City (fourth round). Jackson (fifth, Los Angeles Rams) and cornerback Chau Smith-Wade (fifth, Carolina) were also selected, giving WSU its most draft picks in a season since the 2005 NFL Draft.

Dickert began the 2022 season, his first full year leading the Cougars, with three-straight wins — including a victory at No. 19 Wisconsin. The win was Washington State's first regular-season non-conference road win over a ranked team since 2003. The Cougars captured three of its final four games and reached a bowl game — the Jimmy Kimmel L.A. Bowl — for the seventh-straight season which was then the second-longest current streak in the Pac-12. Under Dickert's leadership, WSU again was strong defensively, finishing in the top four of numerous Pac-12 categories, including second in red zone defense and tackles-for-loss, third in scoring defense and turnovers gained and fourth in sacks. Washington State also led the Pac-12 in red zone offense. In 2022, Washington State had 10 All-Pac-12 players, including first-team linebacker and third-team All-American Daiyan Henley, while safety Jaden Hicks garnered third-team Freshman All-America honors. Henley was selected in the third round of the NFL Draft by the Los Angeles Chargers.

Dickert spent the final five games of the 2021 regular season serving as the Cougar's acting head coach, leading Washington State to a 3-2 record with wins over Arizona State, Arizona and a dominating 40-13 Apple Cup victory in Seattle, earning a trip to the Tony The Tiger Sun Bowl. The Apple Cup win snapped a seven-game skid to the Huskies and was the Cougar's largest margin of victory in series history.

Under Dickert's leadership, the Cougar defense was a huge spark in 2021, leading the Pac-12 with 29 takeaways, fifth-most nationally, while also leading the Pac-12 and tied for ninth nationally in turnover margin. 14 players earned All-Pac-12 honors including first-team selections in right tackle Abraham Lucas, kicker Dean Janikowski and edge Ron Stone Jr. while punter Nick Haberer was named a Freshman All-American. In the 2022 NFL Draft, offensive lineman Abraham Lucas was selected in the second round by the Seattle Seahawks and cornerback Jaylen Watson went in the seventh round to the Kansas City Chiefs. Entering the 2021 season, Dickert was in his second year as Washington State's defensive coordinator and linebackers coach.

In 2020, his first season in Pullman, the Washington State defense produced four All-Pac-12 Conference selections including linebacker Jahad Woods, who was second on the team with 31 tackles and led the team with 4.5 tackles-for loss. The Cougars led the league with eight forced fumbles and was fourth in rush defense (154.8), a 30-yard improvement from the previous season.

Prior to his time at Washington State, Dickert helped build Wyoming into one of the best Group of Five programs in the country. During his three including the final as the defensive coordinator, Wyoming played in a pair of bowl games while he tutored four future NFL Draft selections on the defensive side of the ball. In 2019, the Cowboys were sixth in the country in red zone defense, No. 11 in the country in rush defense (107.1) and scoring defense (17.8), No. 40 tackles-for-loss (83) and No. 43 in total defense. Dickert mentored All-American linebacker and Butkus Award Finalist Logan Wilson while redshirt-freshman defensive end Solomon Byrd was named a Freshman All-American by the Football Writers Association of America.

In 2018, Wyoming's defense was among the best in the nation, finishing the season No. 19 in total defense (326.2), No. 25 in rushing defense (129.5), No. 28 in scoring defense (22.0) and No. 32 in pass defense (196.7). In his first season at Wyoming, Dickert help the 2017 Cowboy defense become one of the best groups in the country as they led the country in takeaways (38), ranked ninth in scoring defense (17.5), were first in fumbles recovered (18), second in interceptions (20), eighth in defensive touchdowns scored (four TD), No. 13 in pass defense (174.9) and No. 23 in total defense (335.2).

Before arriving at Wyoming, Dickert spent the 2016 season as the safeties coach and co-special teams coordinator at South Dakota State. In his one season on the South Dakota State coaching staff, Dickert helped guide the Jackrabbits to the 2016 Missouri Valley Football Conference Championship and a No. 8 seed in the 2016 NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) Playoffs, where they advanced to the FCS National Quarterfinals.

As defensive coordinator and linebackers coach at Minnesota State, Mankato for the 2014 and 2015 seasons Dickert was part of a coaching staff that led the Mavericks to back-to-back Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) championships and consecutive NCAA Division II Playoff berths, earning their way to the 2014 National Championship Game. Minnesota State posted a combined record of 24-3 over that two-year span. Dickert's 2014 defense ranked second in the nation in scoring defense (12.9).

In his first season as a college defensive coordinator in 2013 at Augustana, Dickert's defense ranked No. 20 in the nation at the NCAA Division II level in scoring defense. Prior to that, Dickert had full-time assistant stops at Southeast Missouri State in 2012, South Dakota in 2011 and North Dakota State in 2009-10.

THE DICKERT FILE

Quick Facts

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Birthday: Aug. 23, 1983
Hometown: Oconto, Wisconsin
Education: Wisconsin-Stevens Point '07 (B.S., Secondary Math Education); '09 (M.A. General Education)

COACHING HISTORY

Seasons	School/Team	Title
2025-Present	Wake Forest	Head Coach
2021-24	Washington State	Head Coach
2020-21	Washington State	Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers
2019	Wyoming	Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers
2017-18	Wyoming	Safeties
2016	South Dakota State	Co-Special Teams/Safeties
2014-15	Minnesota State	Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers
2013	Augustana (SD)	Defensive Coordinator
2012	Southeast Missouri State	Defensive Backs
2011	South Dakota	Special Teams/Defensive Backs
2009-10	North Dakota State	Safeties
2008	North Dakota State	Graduate Assistant
2007	Wisconsin-Stevens Point	Graduate Assistant

NFL PLAYERS (ROUND DRAFTED)

Player (Position)	Round	Alma Mater (Class)	NFL Team
Cam Ward (QB)	1st	Washington State ('25)	Tennessee Titans
Kyle Williams (WR)	3rd	Washington State ('25)	New England Patriots
Francisco Mauigoa (LB)	5th	Washington State ('25)	New York Jets
Jaden Hicks (S)	4th	Washington State ('24)	Kansas City Chiefs
Brennan Jackson (DE)	5th	Washington State ('24)	Los Angeles Rams
Chau Smith-Wade (CB)	5th	Washington State ('24)	Carolina Panthers
Daiyan Henley (LB)	3rd	Washington State ('23)	Los Angeles Chargers
Chad Muma (LB)	3rd	Wyoming ('22)	Jacksonville Jaguars
Abraham Lucas (OT)	3rd	Washington State ('22)	Seattle Seahawks
Jaylen Watson (CB)	7th	Washington State ('22)	Kansas City Chiefs
Logan Wilson (LB)	3rd	Wyoming ('20)	Cincinnati Bengals
Cassh Maluia (LB)	6th	Wyoming ('20)	New England Patriots
Marcus Epps (S)	6th	Wyoming ('19)	Minnesota Vikings
Jordan Brown (CB)	7th	South Dakota State ('19)	Cincinnati Bengals
Tyler Starr (LB)	7th	South Dakota ('14)	Atlanta Falcons

He also served as a graduate assistant for North Dakota State in 2008 and got his start in coaching as a graduate assistant at his alma mater Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2007.

Dickert played football at Wisconsin-Stevens Point from 2002-06 where he earned All-Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) honors as a wide receiver his senior season of 2006 and was named his team's Wide Receiver of the Year both his junior and senior seasons. Dickert earned his bachelor's degree in secondary math education from Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2007, and completed his master's degree in general education, also from UW-Stevens Point in 2009.

He and his wife, Candice, have three children: daughter Rylee and sons Jett and Jace.

ASSISTANT COACHES

Leading the Demon Deacons

ROB EZELL

Offensive Coordinator/Tight Ends

Personal Information:

Hometown: Athens, Alabama
Education: 2011 University of Alabama (BA);
2014 Colorado State University (MA)
Spouse: Lulu
Child: Sam

Coaching Experience:

Seasons	*School/Team*	*Title/Position Coached*
2025	Wake Forest	Offensive Coordinator/TE
2024	South Alabama	Offensive Coordinator/QB
2021-23	South Alabama	Tight Ends
2017-20	Alabama	Offensive Analyst
2015-16	Alabama	Offensive Graduate Assistant
2012-14	Colorado State	Offensive Graduate Assistant
2011	Alabama	Student Assistant

SCOTTIE HAZELTON

Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers

Personal Information:

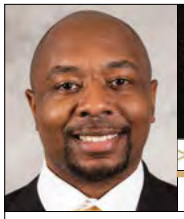
Hometown: Brighton, Colorado
Education: 1997 Fort Lewis College (BS)
Spouse: Brooke
Children: Ava, Sophie, Bode and Crew

Coaching Experience:

Seasons	*School/Team*	*Title/Position Coached*
2025	Wake Forest	Defensive Coordinator/LB
2024	Texas	Special Assistant to the Head Coach
2020-23	Michigan State	Defensive Coordinator/LB
2019	Kansas State	Defensive Coordinator/LB
2017-18	Wyoming	Defensive Coordinator/LB
2014-16	Jacksonville Jaguars	Assistant Linebackers
2013	Nevada	Defensive Coordinator
2012	Southern California	Linebackers
2010-11	North Dakota State	Defensive Coordinator/LB
2007-09	North Dakota State	Defensive Line
2006	Michigan Tech	Special Teams/LB
2004-05	Missouri Southern State	Defensive Coordinator
2002-03	St. Olaf	Defensive Backs
2000-01	North Dakota State	Graduate Assistant
1999	Fort Lewis	Defensive Coordinator
1996-98	Fort Lewis	Defensive Backs

ASSISTANT COACHES

Leading the Demon Deacons



FREDDIE BANKS

Assistant Coach/Defensive Backs

Personal Information:

Hometown: Harvey, Illinois
Education: 2010 North Dakota State (BA)
Spouse: Candace
Children: Dakota and Aceson

Coaching Experience:

Seasons	*School/Team*	*Title/Position Coached*
2025	Wake Forest	Assistant Coach/DB
2022-24	Colorado State	Defensive Coordinator/DB
2021	Montana State	Defensive Coordinator/DB
2020	Nevada	Cornerbacks
2019	Stephen F. Austin	Cornerbacks
2016-18	Midwestern State	Secondary
2015	Livonia HS (La.)	Defensive Coordinator
2013-14	Nicholls	Cornerbacks
2011-12	Minnesota State-Moorhead	Defensive Coordinator/DB

NICK EDWARDS

Balogh Family Assistant Coach for Wide Receivers

Personal Information:

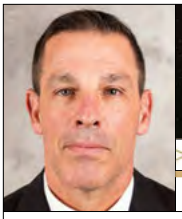
Hometown: Tacoma, Washington
Education: 2012 Eastern Washington University (BA)
Spouse: Macca
Children: Kashmir and Kyrie

Coaching Experience:

Seasons	*School/Team*	*Title/Position Coached*
2025	Wake Forest	Assistant Coach/WR
2023-24	Washington State	Wide Receivers
2022	Atlanta Falcons	Offensive Assistant
2020-21	Cal Poly	Offensive Coordinator/WR
2020	Minnesota Vikings	Bill Walsh Diversity Coaching Fellowship
2019	California	Running Backs
2017-18	California	Wide Receivers
2014-16	Eastern Washington	Wide Receivers
2013	Eastern Washington	Strength & Conditioning Assistant

ASSISTANT COACHES

Leading the Demon Deacons



DAN ENOS

Assistant Coach/Quarterbacks

Personal Information:

Hometown: Dearborn, Michigan
Education: 1991 Michigan State University (BA); 2006 Michigan State University (MA)
Spouse: Jane
Children: Lia and Alex

Coaching Experience:

Seasons	*School/Team*	*Title/Position Coached*
2025	Wake Forest	Assistant Coach/QB
2024	Florida	Special Assistant to the Head Coach/ Advanced Scouting
2023	Arkansas	Offensive Coordinator/QB
2021-22	Maryland	Offensive Coordinator/QB
2020	Cincinnati	Associate Head Coach/RB
2019	Miami (Fla.)	Offensive Coordinator/QB
2018	Alabama	Associate Head Coach/QB
2015-17	Arkansas	Offensive Coordinator/QB
2010-14	Central Michigan	Head Coach
2007-09	Michigan State	Assistant Coach/RB
2006	Michigan State	Assistant Coach/QB
2004-05	Cincinnati	Assistant Coach/QB
2003	North Dakota State	Offensive Coordinator/QB
2000-02	Western Michigan	Assistant Coach/QB
1999	Missouri State	Offensive Coordinator/QB
1997-98	Southern Illinois	Assistant Coach/QB, WR
1996	Northern Michigan	Offensive Coordinator/RB
1994-95	Lakeland College	Offensive Coordinator/QB, RB
1991-93	Michigan State	Graduate Assistant

T.J. HOLLOWELL

Assistant Coach/Defensive Ends

Personal Information:

Hometown: Copperas Cove, Texas
Education: 2009 University of Nebraska (BA)
Spouse: Jessica
Children: Tommy and Kingston

Coaching Experience:

Seasons	*School/Team*	*Title/Position Coached*
2025	Wake Forest	Assistant Coach/DE
2024	Nebraska	Football Recruiting Coordinator
2020-24	Michigan State	Defensive Analyst
2019	Coastal Carolina	Defensive Ends/OL
2018	Coastal Carolina	Defensive Line
2016-17	Santa Margarita Catholic HS (Calif.)	Defensive Coordinator/LB, S
2015	Youngstown State	Linebackers
2014	Huntsville HS (Texas)	Outside Linebackers/Safeties
2011-13	Nebraska	Graduate Assistant
2010	Nebraska	Defensive Intern/LB
2008-09	Nebraska	Strength & Conditioning Intern

ASSISTANT COACHES

Leading the Demon Deacons

CHEVIS JACKSON

Assistant Coach/Cornerbacks

Personal Information:

Hometown: Mobile, Alabama
Education: 2007 Louisiana State University (BA); 2014 University of South Alabama (MA)
Spouse: Ashley
Children: Caden, Rue and Logan

Coaching Experience:

Seasons	*School/Team*	*Title/Position Coached*
2025	Wake Forest	Assistant Coach/CB
2024	Miami (Fla.)	Assistant Coach/CB
2022-23	Marshall	Co-Defensive Coordinator/CB
2019-21	Kansas	Assistant Coach/CB
2016-18	Ball State	Assistant Coach/CB
2015	LSU	Graduate Assistant
2013-14	South Alabama	Graduate Assistant

PETER KALIGIS

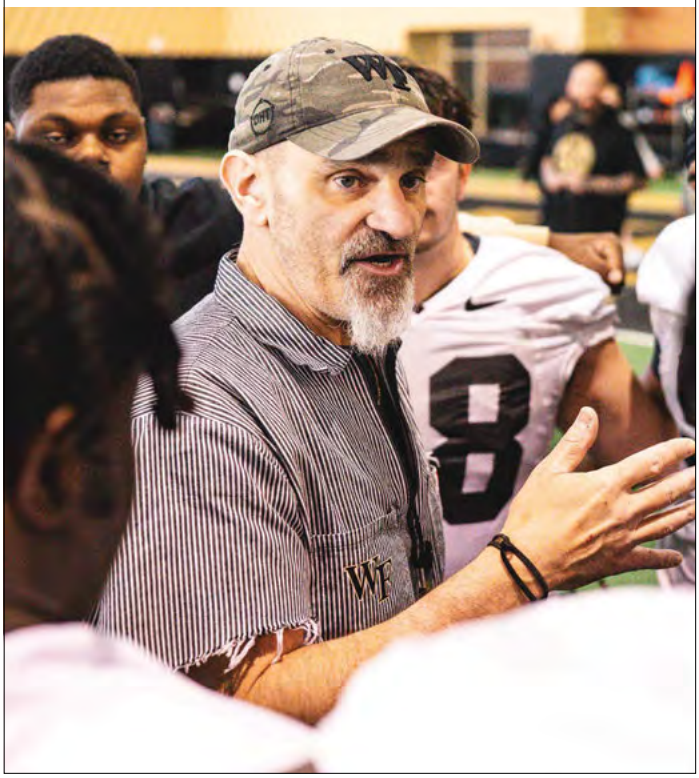
Assistant Coach/Defensive Tackles

Personal Information:

Hometown: Bellingham, Washington
Education: 1994 University of Washington (BA)
Spouse: Kristine
Children: Harlie and Cooper

Coaching Experience:

Seasons	*School/Team*	*Title/Position Coached*
2025	Wake Forest	Assistant Coach/DT
2022-24	Washington State	Assistant Head Coach/DT
2020-22	Wyoming	Defensive Run-Game Coordinator/DT
2014-19	Wyoming	Defensive Tackles
2013	Wyoming	Assistant Head Coach/ Offensive Coordinator/RB
2012	Wyoming	Assistant Head Coach/ Offensive Line/RB
2009-11	Wyoming	Offensive Line
2006-08	Montana	Offensive Line
2005	Montana	Tight Ends/Offensive Tackles
1999-2004	Washington	Strength & Conditioning Coach
1996-97	Western Washington	Defensive Line/Strength Coach
1994-95	Western Washington	Tight Ends/Strength Coach



ASSISTANT COACHES

Leading the Demon Deacons

JARED KASTER

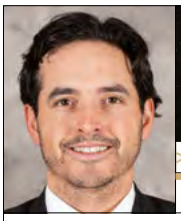
Assistant Coach/Offensive Line

Personal Information:

Hometown: Altair, Texas
Education: 2015 Texas Tech University (BA)
Spouse: Caitlyn
Child: Sadie

Coaching Experience:

Seasons	*School/Team*	*Title/Position Coached*
2025	Wake Forest	Assistant Coach/OL
2024	Washington State	Offensive Line
2023	Austin Peay	Co-Offensive Coordinator/OL
2018-22	Houston Christian	Run Game Coordinator/OL
2016-17	Texas Tech	Offensive Line Assistant/ Offensive Quality Control



ADAM PILAPIL

Assistant Coach/Linebackers

Personal Information:

Hometown: Torrance, California
Education: 2018 University of Wyoming (BA)
Spouse: Kayla
Child: Tatum (TJ)

Coaching Experience:

Seasons	*School/Team*	*Title/Position Coached*
2025	Wake Forest	Assistant Coach/LB
2022-24	Colorado State	Assistant Coach/LB
2021	Montana State	Assistant Coach/Defensive Line
2020	Kansas State	Defensive Graduate Assistant
2019	Wyoming	Defensive Quality Control

ASSISTANT COACHES

Leading the Demon Deacons

EFFREM REED

Assistant Coach/Running Backs

Personal Information:

Hometown: Geismar, Louisiana
Education: 2015 University of Louisiana Lafayette (BA)

Coaching Experience:

Seasons	*School/Team*	*Title/Position Coached*
2025	Wake Forest	Assistant Coach/RB
2024	South Alabama	Running Backs
2022-23	Michigan State	Running Backs
2020-21	Michigan State	Offensive Analyst
2019	Louisiana	Graduate Assistant
2018	Louisiana	Director of Player Engagement

JARED KASTER *and* T.J. HOLLOWELL *at spring practice.*

SCOTTIE HAZELTON, JOEL DIAZ-ROMERO *(Assistant Director of Recruiting) and* ADAM PILAPIL *at spring practice.*

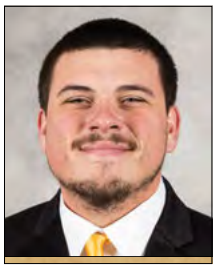
SUPPORT STAFF

Leading the Demon Deacons

ROB SCHLAEGER
General Manager

JUSTIN KRAMER
Assistant Head Coach

JEB RICE
Offensive Analyst



CARTER WEBB
Assistant Offensive Line Coach

WESLEY BESCHORNER
Offensive Analyst

BOBBY MAFFEI
Defensive Assistant

KYLE THORNTON
Assistant Defensive Line Coach

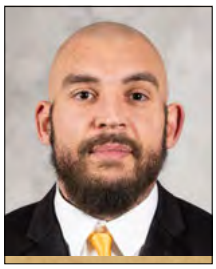
RHETT PURLING
Special Teams Quality Control

JAKE BENZINGER
Graduate Assistant

IZAIAH PROUSE-LACKEY
Graduate Assistant

NASIR GREER
Graduate Assistant

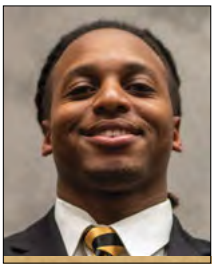
CHASE JONES
Graduate Assistant



BEN IANNACCHIONE
Head Strength & Conditioning Coach

JAKE BECKETT
Associate Director, Strength & Conditioning

TRISTAN WHITE
Assistant Director, Strength & Conditioning



TARIK MUSE
Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach

DAVID TERREBONE
Data Analytics, Strength & Conditioning

BRENT VERNON
Chief of Staff

DYLAN STEVENS
Director of Football Operations

GREY BECHOK
Assistant Director of Football Operations

KATIE BASON
Director of Recruiting Operations & Roster Management

RUSS KIESELHORST
Senior Director of Player Personnel

CORY MARTIN
Director of Player Personnel

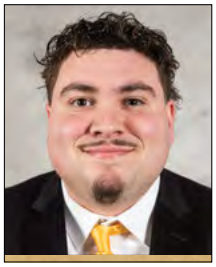
KYLE KUYKENDALL
Director of Scouting

COLE NOWAK
Transfer Scout

SUPPORT STAFF

Leading the Demon Deacons

TY GATSON
Director of Recruiting



JOEL DIAZ-ROMERO
Assistant Director of Recruiting

MARK HOLCOMB
Director of High School & Alumni Relations

OLIVIA VEA
Director of Video

GIOVANNI CONTRERAS
Assistant Video Coordinator

BRIANA BREWER
Director of Player Development

MITCHELL LISOWSKI
Senior Director of Football Creative Media

RIAN McCARTHY
Coordinator of Creative Content

TIFFANY CAMPBELL
Assistant AD of Football Nutrition

ALISON MITCHELL
Head Football Athletic Trainer

WILL HOUCK
Assistant Athletic Trainer

VIEN VU
Associate Athletic Trainer/ Rehab Coordinator

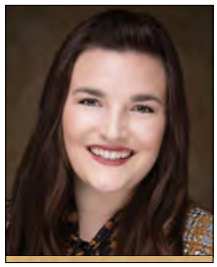
LUCAS PATIN
Assistant Athletic Trainer

BRIAN DANIELS
Director, Equipment Services

NICHOLAS GUGLIELMO
Assistant Director, Equipment Services

JANE CALDWELL
Senior Associate AD, Student-Athlete Services & Assistant to the Dean

TIFFANI FRANCO
Academic Counselor



ELIZABETH GOODWIN
Academic Counselor

KATHRYN STINNETT
Asstistant Director, Eligibility & Academic Counselor

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TRADITIONS

Demon Deacon Spirit

COLORS

As early as 1895, Wake Forest College was using its colors in athletic competition. The school's literary magazine, "The Wake Forest Student," described them in this manner:

"At last, Wake Forest has a college badge. It is a very neat button designed by Mr. John M. Heck and contains a tiger's head over the letters WFC. The colors are in old gold and black."

As the 20th century opened, those colors became frequently associated with the college, particularly its athletic and debate teams. Most historians believe that their adoption comes from the connection with the tiger mascot, and not, as some have proposed, from any association with the Bible.

DEMON DEACON NAME

The tiger mascot, however, remained with the school for little more than two decades. Reports indicate that by the early 1920s, the college's nicknames were most commonly noted as the "Baptists," or simply "The Old Gold & Black."

A gentleman by the name of Hank Garrity took over as head football and basketball coach in 1923 and for a brief period reversed those fortunes. Garrity led the football team, which had never had a winning record in the 1900s, to three straight winning seasons. And in two seasons on the hardwood, his clubs compiled a 33-14 mark.

The current nicknames of the time were not descriptive enough of this new-found athletic spirit, school newspaper editor Mayon Parker (class of 1924) felt. After Wake Forest defeated rival Trinity (now Duke) in Garrity's first football season (1923), Parker first referred to the team as "Demon Deacons," in recognition of what he termed their "devilish" play and fighting spirit.

Wake Forest's news director Henry Belk and Garrity liked the title and began using it extensively. The name has, of course, remained as one of the most unique in America.

DEMON DEACON MASCOT

With the "Demon Deacon" terminology has come the actual mascot himself (or herself, which has been the case on a couple of occasions). Jack Baldwin (class of 1943) was the original student Deacon mascot, the first of a long line of entertainers to lead the school's teams into action.

"Some of my fraternity brothers and I were just sitting around one evening," Baldwin recalls, "and came to the agreement that what Wake Forest needed was someone dressed like a deacon — top hat, tails, a black umbrella and all that. We wanted him to be more dignified than other mascots, sort of like an old Baptist Deacon would dress."

The fraternity president asked Baldwin, who was known for his sense of humor, if he would be willing to don such an outfit, and he agreed. An old tuxedo and a worn top hat were found, and the following Saturday, there was Baldwin leading the Wake Forest football team onto the field, riding the North Carolina ram.

The stunt that began as a late-night joke has become tradition. Whether in Honolulu, Shreveport, or even at stadiums and arenas in nearby Durham or Chapel Hill, "the Deacon" stands alone as a unique representative of Wake Forest. Easily recognizable, always distinctive, he adds a special dimension to WFU Athletics wherever he goes.

FIGHT SONG AND ALMA MATER

Lyrics

Wake Forest Fight Song:

O here's to Wake Forest
A glass of the finest
Red ruddy, Rhenish
Filled up to the brim.
Her sons, they are many
Unrivaled by any
With hearts o'erflowing,
We will sing a hymn.

RAH, RAH, WAKE FOREST, RAH!

Old Alma Mater's sons are we!
We'll herald the story and die for
her glory: Old Gold and Black is
ever waving high.
As frosh we adore her,
As sophs we explore her,
and carve our names upon her
ancient walls. As juniors patrol her,
as seniors extol her, and weep to
leave fore'er her sacred halls.

(WIPE TEARS AND REPEAT CHORUS)

Alma Mater:

Dear Old Wake Forest,
Thine is a Noble Name;
Thine is a Glorious Fame,
Constant and True.
We Give Thee of Our Praise,
Adore Thine Ancient Days,
Sing Thee Our Humble Lays,

MOTHER, SO DEAR

Dear Old Wake Forest,
Mystic Thy Name to Cheer;
Be Thou Our Guardian Near Fore'er and Aye.
We Bow Before Thy Shrine,
Thy Brow With Bays Entwine,
All Honor Now Be Thine,

MOTHER, TODAY.

— **BY GEORGE W. PASCHAL,**
CLASS OF 1892 (THURINGIAN FOLK SONG)

HISTORY

Bowl Games • Super Bowl Champions • First-Round Draft Picks • ACC Players of the Year • Retired Jersey Numbers • All-Americans

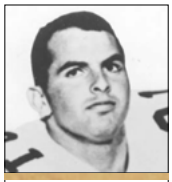
ALL-AMERICANS

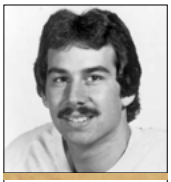
33 Selections

Bill George (1949 | 1st Team Ap, 2nd Team NEA)
Jim Staton (1950 | 2nd Team AP)
Bob Bartholomew (1955 | 2nd Team INS, 2nd Team UPI)
Bill Barnes (1956 | 1st Team Look, 2nd Team AP)
Norm Snead (1960 | 2nd Team UPI, 2nd Team FWAA)
Brian Piccolo (1964 | 1st Team FN, 1st Team FD, 1st Team, Helms, 1st Team NY Daily News, 2nd Team AP, 2nd Team UPI, 2nd Team NEA)
Win Headley (1970 | 2nd Team Walter Camp)
Chuck Ramsey (1973 | 1st Team FWAA)
Bill Armstrong (1975 | 3rd Team AP; 1976 | Consensus All-American, 1st Team AP, UPI, Walter Camp, FN, FWAA, AFCA, TSN)
Wayne Baumgardner (1979 | 2nd Team NEA)
James Parker (1979 | 2nd Team Football News)
Bill Ard (1980 | 1st Team TSN)
Harry Newsome (1983 | 3rd Team AP)
Paul Kiser (1986 | 1st Team AP, 1st Team TSN)
George Coghill (1992 | 3rd Team AP)
Ben Coleman (1992 | 1st Team AFCA)
Michael Collins (2001 | 3rd Team TSN)
Calvin Pace (2002 | 1st Team AFCA, 3rd Team AP, 4th Team TSN)
Ryan Plackemeier (2005 | Consensus All-American, 1st Team AFCA, AP, CBS Sportsline, ESPN, FWAA, SI, TSN, Walter Camp)
Sam Swank (2006 | 1st Team ESPN, 1st Team Rivals, 1st Team SI)
Steve Vallos (2006 | 1st Team SI, 1st Team TSN, 2nd Team Walter Camp)
Steve Justice (2007 | 1st Team AP, 1st Team CBS Sportsline, 1st Team ESPN, 1st Team AFCA, 2nd Team Walter Camp, 2nd Team SI, 2nd Team TSN)
Alphonso Smith (2007 | 2nd Team Walter Camp, 3rd Team AP, 2008 | 1st Team AP, 1st Team AFCA, 1st Team FWAA, 1st Team Walter Camp, 1st Team CBS Sports, 2nd Team TSN, 2nd Team SI, 2nd Team Phil Steele, 2nd Team Rivals)
Aaron Curry (2008 | 1st Team SI, 1st Team Pro Football Weekly, 2nd Team AP, 2nd Team TSN, 2nd Team Phil Steele, 2nd Team Rivals)
Josh Bush (2011 | 3rd Team AP)
Greg Dortch (2018 | 1st Team SI, 1st Team FWAA, 1st Team Pro Football Focus, 2nd Team AP, 2nd Team the Athletic)
Nick Sciba (2019 | 1st Team ESPN, 2nd Team FWAA, 2nd Team SI, 2nd Team Phil Steele, 3rd Team AP, 3rd Team Athlon)
Sage Surratt (2019 | 3rd Team Athlon)
Jaquarii Roberson (2020 | 2nd Team PFF)
Zach Tom (2021 | 2nd Team the Athletic, 2nd Team FWAA)
A.T. Perry (2022 | Honorable Mention Phil Steele)
Kobie Turner (2022 | Honorable Mention PFF)
Michael Jurgens (2023 | 2nd Team Phil Steele)
Demond Claborne (2024 | Honorable Mention Phil Steele)

ACC PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

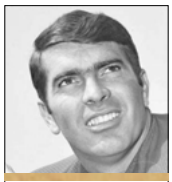
BILL BARNES
1956

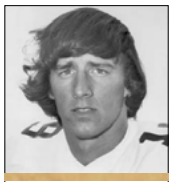

BRIAN PICCOLO
1964

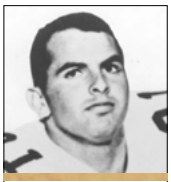

JAY VENUTO
1979

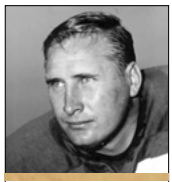
CHRIS BARCLAY
2005

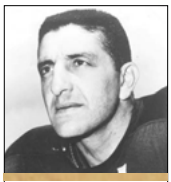
RETIRED JERSEY NUMBERS


NORM SNEAD
16


BILL ARMSTRONG
19


BRIAN PICCOLO
31


BILL BARNES
33


BILL GEORGE
47

BOWL GAMES

1946 Gator Bowl	Wake Forest 26, South Carolina 14
1949 Dixie Bowl	Baylor 20, Wake Forest 7
1979 Tangerine Bowl	LSU 34, Wake Forest 10
1992 Independence Bowl	Wake Forest 39, Oregon 35
1999 Aloha Bowl	Wake Forest 23, Arizona State 3
2002 Seattle Bowl	Wake Forest 38, Oregon 17
2007 Orange Bowl	Louisville 24, Wake Forest 13
2007 Meineke Car Care Bowl	Wake Forest 24, UConn 10
2008 EagleBank Bowl	Wake Forest 29, Navy 19
2011 Music City Bowl	Mississippi State 23, Wake Forest 17
2016 Military Bowl	Wake Forest 34, Temple 26
2017 Belk Bowl	Wake Forest 55, Texas A&M 52
2018 Birmingham Bowl	Wake Forest 37, Memphis 34
2019 Pinstripe Bowl	Michigan State 27, Wake Forest 21
2020 Duke's Mayo Bowl	Wisconsin 42, Wake Forest 21
2021 Gator Bowl	Wake Forest 38, Rutgers 10
2022 Gasparilla Bowl	Wake Forest 27, Missouri 17

SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS

Bill Ard	New York Giants	XXI
Ed Bradley	Pittsburgh Steelers	IX, X
Josh Bush	Denver Broncos	L
Jim Clack	Pittsburgh Steelers	IX, X
George Coghill	Denver Broncos	XXXII, XXXIII
Bob Grant	Baltimore Colts	V
Michael McCrary	Baltimore Ravens	XXXV
Ricky Proehl	St. Louis Rams	XXXIV
	Indianapolis Colts	XLI
Fred Robbins	New York Giants	XLII
Jay Williams	St. Louis Rams	XXIV
John Wolford	Los Angeles Rams	LVI

FIRST-ROUND DRAFT PICKS

Elmer Barbour	1945	10th overall	New York Giants
Norm Snead	1961	2nd overall	Washington
Calvin Pace	2003	18th overall	Arizona Cardinals
Aaron Curry	2009	4th overall	Seattle Seahawks
Kevin Johnson	2015	16th overall	Houston Texans

HALL OF FAME

1970-present

1970-71	Murray Greason	BB (M) Coach
1970-71	Brian Piccolo	FB
1970-71	Peahead Walker	FB Coach
1970-71	Jim Weaver	AD
1971-72	Arnold Palmer	Golf (M)
1972-73	Tommy Byrne	BSB
1972-73	Harry Rabenhorst	FB
1973-74	Red Cochran	FB
1973-74	Bones McKinney	BB (M) Coach
1973-74	Billy Joe Patton	Golf (M)
1974-75	Leon Brogden	FB Coach (HS)
1974-75	Al Dowtin	BB, Golf (M)
1974-75	Dickie Hemric	BB (M)
1975-76	Bill Barnes	FB, BSB
1975-76	Lefty Davis	BB, BSB
1975-76	Red O'Quinn	FB
1976-77	Ray Scarborough	BSB
1976-77	Jim Waller	BB (M)
1977-78	Bill Eutsler	FB, BSB Coach (HS)
1977-78	Billy Packer	BB (M)
1977-78	Norm Snead	FB
1980-81	Len Chappell	BB (M)
1980-81	Jesse Haddock	Golf (M) Coach
1980-81	Pat Preston	FB
1980-81	Charlie Teague	BSB
1982-83	Jack Murdock	BB (M)
1982-83	Nick Sacrinty	FB
1982-83	Jim Staton	FB
1982-83	Lanny Wadkins	Golf (M)
1983-84	Bob Bartholomew	FB-Player, Admin.
1983-84	Charlie Davis	BB (M)
1983-84	Jay Sigel	Golf (M)
1984-85	Jim Duncan	FB
1984-85	Dave Harris	FB-Player, HS Admin.
1984-85	Linwood Holt	BSB
1984-85	Jack Lewis	Golf (M)
1985-86	Carl Tacy	BB (M) Coach
1987-88	Ed Bradley	FB
1987-88	Jay Haas	Golf (M)
1987-88	Billy Scripture	BSB
1987-88	Curtis Strange	Golf (M)
1988-89	Larry Hopkins	FB
1988-89	Gene Overby	Radio Announcer
1988-89	Larry Russell	FB
1989-90	Moe Bauer	BSB
1989-90	Dave Budd	BB (M)
1989-90	Pat Williams	BSB, Pro BB Exec.
1990-91	Jim Clack	FB
1990-91	Herb Cline	BB, FB
1990-91	Scott Hoch	Golf (M)
1990-91	Jack Stallings	BSB
1991-92	Skip Brown	BB (M)
1991-92	Frank Christie	BB, BSB
1991-92	Bill Hull	BB, FB
1991-92	James McDougald	FB
1992-93	Bill Ard	FB
1992-93	Dot Casey	Coach, Women's AD
1992-93	Marge Crisp	Coach, Admin.
1992-93	Harry Nicholas	BSB
1993-94	Jim Flick	Golf (M) Instructor
1993-94	Win Headley	FB
1993-94	Gene Hooks	BSB-Player, AD
1994-95	Marvin Francis	SID
1994-95	Gary Hallberg	Golf (M)
1994-95	Jane Jackson	BB (W)
1994-95	John Mackovic	FB-Player, Coach
1994-95	John Polanski	FB
1995-96	Bill Armstrong	FB
1995-96	Jim Simons	Golf (M)
1995-96	Brick Smith	BSB
1996-97	Rod Griffin	BB (M)
1996-97	Bill Merrifield	BSB
1996-97	Nick Ognovich	FB
1996-97	James Parker	FB
1996-97	Leonard Thompson	Golf (M)
1997-98	Bob Gaona	FB
1997-98	Bill George	FB
1997-98	Frank Johnson	BB (M)
1997-98	Dick Tiddy	Golf (M) Instructor
1998-99	Brenda Corrie Kuehn	Golf (W)
1998-99	Harry Dowda	FB
1998-99	Jack Sawyer	NCAA FAR
1999-2000	Tommy Gregg	BSB
1999-2000	Amy Privette Perko	BB (W)
1999-2000	Jay Venuto	FB
2000-01	Gary Baldinger	FB
2000-01	Muggsy Bogues	BB (M)
2000-01	Jack Williams	BB (M)
2001-02	Joe Inman	Golf (M)
2001-02	Tony Mayberry	FB
2001-02	Ricky Proehl	FB
2002-03	Elmer Barbour	FB
2002-03	Dickie Davis	FB
2002-03	Vic Sorrell	BSB
2003-04	Billy Andrade	Golf (M)
2003-04	Jake Austin	BSB
2003-04	Bob Leonard	BB (M)
2003-04	Jennifer Rioux Straub	T&F, CC (W)
2004-05	Rodney Rogers	BB (M)
2004-05	Ed Stetz	FB
2005-06	Michael McCrary	FB
2005-06	Stephanie Neill Harner	Golf (W)
2006-07	Andy Bloom	T&F (M)
2006-07	Walt Chyzowych	Soccer (M) Coach
2006-07	Jennifer Mitchell Hoover	BB (W)
2007-08	Herb Appenzeller	FB, T&F
2007-08	Mark Erwin	Soccer (M)
2007-08	Rusty LaRue	BB, FB
2007-08	Laura Philo Diaz	Golf (W)
2008-09	Ernie Accorsi	Admin. NFL
2008-09	Tim Duncan	BB (M)
2008-09	Hunter Kemper	T&F (M)
2008-09	Len Mattiace	Golf (M)
2008-09	Dave Odom	BB (M) Coach
2009-10	Steve Brown	FB, T&F
2009-10	Jack Jensen	BB (M)
2009-10	John Henry Mills	FB
2009-10	Chuck Ramsey	FB
2009-10	Jerry Steele	BB (M)
2010-11	George Coghill	FB, BSB
2010-11	Bob Grant	FB
2010-11	Gerald Huth	FB
2010-11	Jim Leighton	Tennis (M) Coach
2010-11	Nolan Swanson	T&F, CC (M)
2011-12	Randolph Childress	BB (M)
2011-12	Neil Covone	Soccer (M)
2011-12	Paul Kiser	FB
2011-12	Janelle Kraus	T&F (W)
2011-12	Dr. Alan White	FB
2012-13	Janet Bergman Fleischman	Tennis (W)
2012-13	Dave Bush	BSB
2012-13	Roper Halverson	BB, VB, Golf
2012-13	Dave Wiedeman	BB (M)
2013-14	Bea Bielik	Tennis (W)
2013-14	Jenny Everett	FH
2013-14	Josh Howard	BB (M)
2013-14	Bob McCreary	FB
2013-14	Cory Sullivan	BSB
2014-15	Desmond Clark	FB
2014-15	Kelly Doton	FH
2014-15	Bill Haas	Golf (M)
2014-15	Bill Hensley	SID
2014-15	Mike MacDougal	BSB
2014-15	Trina Maso de Moya	VB
2014-15	Calvin Pace	FB
2015-16	Anne Bersagel	T&F (W)
2015-16	Tracy Connor-Riddick	BB (W)
2015-16	Kelly Dostal	FH
2015-16	George Greer	BSB Coach
2015-16	Stan Najeway	BB (M)
2015-16	Fred Robbins	FB
2016-17	Chris Barclay	FB
2016-17	Jamie D'Antona	BSB
2016-17	Michael Parkhurst	Soccer (M)
2016-17	Ryan Plackemeier	FB
2016-17	Dr. Ed Wilson	Heritage
2017-18	Lauren Crandall	FH
2017-18	John Gerring	Golf (M)-Player, Heritage
2017-18	Chris Paul	BB (M)
2017-18	Michelle Sikes	T&F (W)
2017-18	Steve Vallos	FB
2018-19	Tyson Clabo	FB

HALL OF FAME

1970-present

2018-19	Steve Justice	FB
2018-19	Claire Laubach	FH
2018-19	Todd Paul	Tennis (M)
2018-19	Webb Simpson	Golf (M)
2018-19	Kyle Sleeth	BSB
2018-19	John Zeglinski	FB, BSB
2019-20	Michelle Kasold	FH
2019-20	Freddie Summers	FB
2019-20	Marcus Tracy	Soccer (M)
2019-20	Aaron Curry	FB
2020-21	Michael Bingham	T&F (M)
2020-21	Dianne Dailey	Golf (W) Coach
2020-21	William Hesmer	Soccer (M)
2020-21	Riley Skinner	FB
2020-21	Sam Swank	FB
2020-21	Drew Taylor	Swimming & Diving (M)
2021-22	Trina Bindel	T&F (W)
2021-22	Alton "Tunney" Brooks	BSB, BB (M)
2021-22	Sam Cronin	Soccer (M)
2021-22	Mike Elkins	FB
2021-22	Alphonso Smith^	FB
2021-22	Emily Taggart	Soccer (W)
2022-23	Bill Faircloth	Admin. Coach
2022-23	Nikeya Green	T&F (W)
2022-23	Corey Parr	Tennis (M)
2022-23	Ish Smith^	BB (M)
2022-23	Ron Wellman	AD
2022-23	Cheyenne Woods^	Golf (W)
2023-24	Maeke Boreel	FH
2023-24	Carlos Bradley	FB
2023-24	Erik Hanson	BSB
2023-24	Dr. Thomas Hearn	President
2023-24	Jose Miguel Grave de Peralta	Soccer (M)
2023-24	Jill Snyder-Kerr	T&F (W)
2024-25	Bill Coore^	Golf (M) Professional
2024-25	Skip Prosser^	BB (M) Coach
2024-25	Ike Opara^	Soccer (M)
2024-25	Keeva Jackson^	BB (W)
2024-25	Aubrey Bledsoe^	Soccer (W)
2024-25	Ovie Mughelli^	FB
2024-25	Katie Stengel*	Soccer (W)

** awaiting induction;*

^ inducted 2024-25 (last ceremony conducted)

DEMON DEACONS IN THE NFL

#ProDeacs

JESSIE BATES III

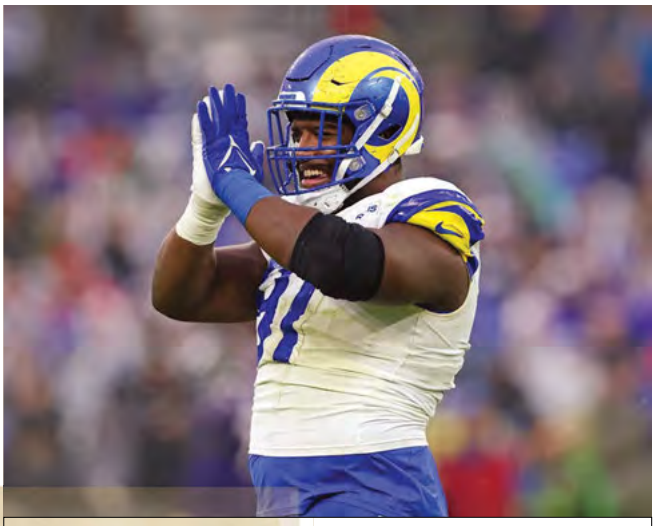
ZACH TOM

ACTIVE DEMON DEACONS IN THE NFL

As of July 8, 2025

PLAYER	TEAM	POS.
Alex Bachman	Las Vegas Raiders	WR
Carlos "Boogie" Basham Jr.	Carolina Panthers	LB
Jessie Bates III	Atlanta Falcons	S
Caelen Carson	Dallas Cowboys	CB
Branson Combs	Jacksonville Jaguars	LB
Jasheen Davis	New Orleans Saints	DE
Greg Dortch	Arizona Cardinals	WR
Michael Jurgens	Minnesota Vikings	C
Taylor Morin	Philadelphia Eagles	WR
Malik Mustapha	San Francisco 49ers	S
A.T. Perry	Denver Broncos	WR
Justin Strnad	Denver Broncos	LB
Ja'Sir Taylor	Los Angeles Chargers	CB
Zach Tom	Green Bay Packers	G
Kobie Turner	Los Angeles Rams	DT
Luiji Vilain	Dallas Cowboys	LB
Blake Whiteheart	Cleveland Browns	TE
John Wolford	Jacksonville Jaguars	QB

MALIK MUSTAPHA



KOBIE TURNER

DEMON DEACONS IN THE NFL

#ProDeacs

ALL-TIME NFL DRAFT PICKS

2024
(Player ..... Team/Round)
Malik Mustapha .... San Francisco 49ers/4th
Caelen Carson ..... Dallas Cowboys/5th
Michael Jurgens ..... Minnesota Vikings/7th

2023
Kobie Turner ..... Los Angeles Rams/3rd
A.T. Perry ..... New Orleans Saints/6th

2022
Zach Tom ..... Green Bay/4th
Ja'Sir Taylor ..... Los Angeles Chargers/6th

2021
Carlos "Boogie" Basham Jr. Buffalo/2nd

2020
Justin Strnad Denver/5th
Justin Herron ..... New England/6th

2019
Phil Haynes Seattle/4th

2018
Jessie Bates III Cincinnati/2nd
Duke Ejiofor Houston/6th

2017
Marquel Lee Oakland/5th

2015
Kevin Johnson Houston/1st

2014
Michael Campanaro Baltimore/7th

2013
Tommy Bohanon ..... New York Jets/7th

2012
Chris Givens ..... St. Louis/4th
Kyle Wilber Dallas/4th
Joe Looney ..... San Francisco/4th
Josh Bush ..... New York Jets/6th

2010
Brandon Ghee Cincinnati/3rd
Chris DeGeare Minnesota/5th

2009
Aaron Curry Seattle/1st
Alphonso Smith Denver/2nd
Chip Vaughn ..... New Orleans/4th
Stanley Arnoux ..... New Orleans/4th

2008
Jeremy Thompson ..... Green Bay/4th
Kenneth Moore Detroit/5th
Steve Justice Indianapolis/6th

2007
Josh Gattis Jacksonville/5th
Steve Vallos Seattle/7th

2006
Ryan Plackemeier Seattle/7th

2005
Eric King Buffalo/5th

2003
Calvin Pace Arizona/1st
Ovie Mughelli Baltimore/4th
Montique Sharpe ..... Kansas City/7th

2000
Fred Robbins Minnesota/2nd
Dustin Lyman Chicago/3rd
Reggie Austin Chicago/4th

1999
Desmond Clark Denver/6th

1993
Ben Coleman Arizona/2nd
John Henry Mills Houston/5th
Michael McCrary Seattle/7th

1990
Ricky Proehl Arizona/3rd
ToNew York Mayberry ..... Tampa Bay/4th

1989
David Braxton Minnesota/2nd
Mike Elkins ..... Kansas City/2nd
A.J. Greene ..... New York Giants/9th

1988
Greg Scale ..... New Orleans/5th
Darryl McGill Washington/8th

1987
Paul Kiser Atlanta/6th
Greg Harris ..... Green Bay/9th

1986
Gary Baldinger ..... Kansas City/9th
ToNew York Garbarczyk Buffalo/11th

1985
Harry Newsome Pittsburgh/8th
Ronnie Burgess ..... Green Bay/10th

1982
KenNew York Duckett ..... New Orleans/3rd
Richard Baldinger ... New York Giants/10th

1981
Bill Ard ..... New York Giants/8th
Carlos Bradley ..... San Diego/11th

1980
Syd Kitson ..... Green Bay/3rd

1978
Larry Tearry Detroit/5th
Steve Young Houston/10th

1977
Bill Armstrong Cleveland/8th
Dave LaCrosse Pittsburgh/10th

1974
Chuck Ramsey ..... New England/6th
Clayton Heath Miami/13th

1973
Ken Garrett ..... St. Louis/8th

1972
Ed Bradley Pittsburgh/4th

1971
Win Headley ..... Green Bay/8th

1970
Ed George Pittsburgh/4th

1969
Fred Summers Cleveland/4th

1968
Bob Grant Baltimore/2nd

1967
Lynn Nesbitt Chicago/14th
John Snow ..... New Orleans/15th

1965
Karl Sweetan Detroit/18th

1962
Bill Hull Chicago/3rd

1961
Norm Snead Washington/1st
Bob McCreary ..... San Francisco/5th

1960
Pete Manning ..... Chicago Bears/8th

1958
George Johnson Pittsburgh/20th
Frank Thompson Cleveland/26th

1957
Bill Barnes Philadelphia/2nd
John Ladner ..... San Francisco/24th
John Niznik Philadelphia/29th

1956
Nick Consoles Philadelphia/18th
Gerry Huth ..... New York Giants/24th
John Parham Philadelphia/24th
Bob Bartholomew Cleveland/30th

1955
Ed Stowers ..... New York Giants/15th
Nick Maravic Philadelphia/17th
Lou Hallow ..... Los Angeles Rams/26th

1953
Joe Koch ..... Chicago Bears/4th
Bob Gaona Pittsburgh/5th
Larry Spencer Detroit/12th
Tom Donahoe ..... Chicago Cardinals/19th
Bill Link Washington/20th
Clyde Pickard ..... Chicago Bears/25th
Jack Lewis ..... Chicago Bears/29th

1952
Bill Miller ..... Chicago Bears/11th
Ed Listopad ..... Chicago Cardinals/19th
Ed Kissell Pittsburgh/30th

1951
Jim Staton Washington/2nd
Bill George ..... Chicago Bears/2nd
Bill Gregus ..... Chicago Bears/9th

1950
Jim Duncan Cleveland/9th
Ed Bradley ..... Chicago Bears/16th
Tom Palmer ..... Chicago Cardinals/17th

1949
Red O'Quinn ..... Chicago Bears/3rd
Bernie Hanula ..... Chicago Cardinals/6th
Tom Fetzer ..... New York Giants/22nd
Jim Lail Boston/22nd

1948
Ed Royston ..... New York Giants/7th
Jim Duncan ..... Chicago Bears/21st
Dick Wedel ..... Chicago Cardinals/22nd

1947
Bob Leonetti Philadelphia/7th
Dick Brinkley ..... New York Giants/16th
Harry Dowda Washington/17th

1946
Elmer Jones ..... New York Giants/2nd
Dave Harris Detroit/3rd
Pride Ratteree ..... Chicago Cardinals/19th

1945
Elmer Barbour ..... New York Giants/1st
Nick Sacrinty ..... Chicago Bears/15th
Russ Perry ..... Cleveland Ram/27th

1944
George Owen Pittsburgh/5th
John (Red) Cochran ... Chicago Cardinals/8th
Bill Starford ..... Chicago Bears/8th

1943
Pat Preston ..... Chicago Bears/15th

1942
John Polanski Detroit/11th
Charley Givler ..... Chicago Cardinals/13th
Frank Kapriva Pittsburgh/20th

1941
Jim Ringgold Pittsburgh/4th
John Jett Detroit/7th
ToNew York GallovichCleveland Rams/8th
John Pendergast ..... Cleveland Rams/10th

1940
Rupert Pate ..... Chicago Cardinals/20th

1939
Lou Trunzo Brooklyn/15th

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1834

Wake Forest University combines the best traditions of a liberal arts college and a large research university. Founded in 1834 in the town of Wake Forest, N.C., the school moved 100 miles west to its present home of Winston-Salem in 1956.

Wake Forest offers a diverse undergraduate curriculum and graduate and professional education. Undergraduates can choose among 45 majors and more than 60 minors. The University's nationally acclaimed graduate programs in arts and sciences, divinity, law, medicine and business enrich the intellectual environment of the campus.

Through interdisciplinary collaboration and community engagement, Wake Forest students and faculty generate meaningful impact that reaches far beyond campus. The University's commitment to academic excellence has established it as a global leader in developing solutions that benefit society.

A student-faculty ratio of 10-to-1 encourages personal interaction and intellectual collaboration between students and professors. Most classes have fewer than 20 students, and almost all are taught by faculty teacher-scholars, not graduate students.

The campus community embodies the University's motto, Pro Humanitate, or "for humanity." Students organize and participate in various projects, many of which benefit the Winston-Salem community.

Students come from every part of the United States and more than 50 countries around the world, contributing to a unique community of learning.

The University's global engagement is further underlined by its commitment to helping students learn in other countries. More than 80% of graduates study abroad at some point, consistently one of the nation's highest percentages.

Wake Forest is the only school of its size to have won NCAA team titles in six unique sports. Its history includes three titles in field hockey and men's golf and one each in women's golf, men's soccer, men's tennis and baseball. The women's golf team collected the 10th national championship in school history in May, and Wake Forest is one of just seven ACC schools to win 10 or more national titles.

Wake Forest is one of only seven Division I institutions to rank in the Top 50 in the most recent reports of both the Learfield Cup final standings and the NCAA's Graduation Success Rate report.

WINSTON-SALEM

City of Arts and Innovation

The origin of the town of Salem dates to January 1753, when Bishop August Gottlieb Spangenberg, on behalf of the Moravian Church, selected a settlement site in the three forks of Muddy Creek. He called this area "die Wachau" (Latin form: Wachovia) named after the ancestral estate of Count Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf. The land, just short of 99,000 acres (400 km2), was subsequently purchased from John Carteret, Second Earl Granville.

On November 17, 1753, the first settlers arrived at what would later become the town of Bethabara. This town, despite its rapid growth, was not designed to be the primary settlement on the tract. Some residents expanded to a nearby settlement called Bethania in 1759. Finally, lots were drawn to select among suitable sites for the location of a new town.

In 1849, the Salem congregation sold land north of Salem to the newly formed Forsyth County for a county seat. The new town was called "the county town" or Salem until 1851 when it was renamed Winston for a local hero of the Revolutionary War, Joseph Winston.

In the 1880s, the US Post Office began referring to the two towns as Winston-Salem. In 1899, after nearly a decade of contention, the United States Post Office Department established the Winston-Salem post office in Winston, with the former Salem office serving as a branch. After a referendum, the towns were officially incorporated as "Winston-Salem" in 1913.

In the 2020 census, the population was 249,545. It is the second largest municipality in the Piedmont Triad region, the fifth most populous city in North Carolina, the third largest urban area in North Carolina, and the eighty-ninth most populous city in the United States.

Today, Winston-Salem is known as the "City of Arts and Innovation".

The city's Arts District is centered around Sixth and Trade Streets, where there are many galleries, restaurants and workshops. The city plays host to the National Black Theatre Festival, the RiverRun International Film Festival and the Reynolda Film Festival.

The east end of downtown Winston-Salem is anchored by the Innovation Quarter, one of the fastest growing urban-based districts in the United States. Governed by Wake Forest School of Medicine, the Innovation Quarter is home to 90 companies, over 3,600 workers, 1,800 students seeking a college degree, and more than 8,000 workforce trainees. The Innovation Quarter is a place for research, business, biomedical science, digital media, and clinical services.

DR. SUSAN R. WENTE

Wake Forest's 14th President

Dr. Susan R. Wente is Wake Forest University's 14th president and a Distinguished University Professor of Biology and Biochemistry.

Across her academic and administrative career, Dr. Wente has earned a reputation for thoughtful, future-oriented leadership that fosters institutional growth, academic excellence and opportunity for all. She leads with trust, transparency and teamwork as core values and believes the University's motto, Pro Humanitate, calls Wake Forest to be a catalyst for good in society.

Dr. Wente is now leading Wake Forest toward its third century with strategic investments in the University's priorities: academic excellence, access and affordability, and enhancing the student experience. The weaving together of teaching and scholarship is a core component of Wake Forest's identity and instrumental to Dr. Wente's vision for Wake Forest as a model student-centered research university. Dr. Wente works to highlight faculty academic and research excellence through her Walk with Wente video series and by investing in efforts to share faculty expertise worldwide.

Under Dr. Wente's leadership, Wake Forest has launched new initiatives focused on access and opportunity, including the For Humanity initiative, which has raised more than $130 million to support student financial aid, and a specially designated Early Action process to provide a new pathway for first-generation college students to come to Wake Forest.

Dr. Wente is leading the most significant campus facility renewal effort since Wake Forest arrived in Winston-Salem in 1956. Recognizing Wake Forest's cherished sense of place as core to its identity, she has initiated important projects to renew the Reynolda Campus academic core and more effectively leverage its real estate assets to serve the University's academic and research missions. Under Dr. Wente's leadership and in partnership with the City of Winston-Salem, the University launched The Grounds: a transformative 100-acre mixed-use development in the Deacon Boulevard area laying the foundation for a more sustainable, pedestrian-friendly and connected community hub and gathering place.

Since July 2025, Dr. Wente has served as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Atlantic Coast Conference, putting Wake Forest at the forefront in a changing landscape for college athletics. During her tenure, the Demon Deacons have won six ACC Championships and two NCAA Championships. The Demon Deacons baseball program secured a berth in the 2023 Men's College World Series for the first time since 1955 and the football program has captured a pair of bowl championships and won the 2021 Atlantic Division title. Additionally, Wake Forest student-athletes continue to excel in the classroom. Wake Forest had 11 programs score a perfect 1,000 in the latest Yearly Academic Progress Rate report for 2023-24 and two programs earn perfect multi-year rates for the academic years since 2020.

Dr. Wente is an internationally renowned biomedical scientist who has maintained an unwavering commitment to research, teaching and mentoring. She has published more than 100 research articles and mentored dozens of students and fellows. A pioneer of team-based, cross-disciplinary research, Dr. Wente's cell biology discoveries have laid the foundation for understanding disease mechanisms and inspired her distinctive leadership philosophy. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation.

Dr. Wente arrived at Wake Forest in July 2021 after serving as Vanderbilt University's Provost and interim Chancellor.

Wente earned a Bachelor of Science with high distinction and honors in biochemistry from the University of Iowa and her Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley. She was a postdoctoral fellow at both the Rockefeller University and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Her faculty career began at Washington University's School of Medicine in 1993. In 2002, she was recruited to Vanderbilt as a professor and chair of the department of cell and developmental biology in the school of medicine. In 2009, she was named associate vice chancellor for research and senior associate dean for biomedical sciences. She later served as provost, vice chancellor for academic affairs and interim chancellor from 2014 to 2021, and held the Cornelius Vanderbilt Chair.

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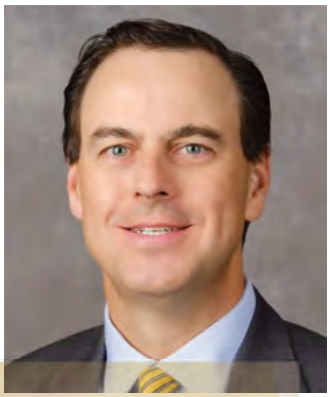
JOHN CURRIE

Sixth Director of Athletics



John Currie was introduced as the sixth Director of Athletics at Wake Forest University on March 4, 2019 and was promoted to Vice President by current Wake Forest President Susan R. Wente on June 27, 2024. One of the most experienced athletics directors in the Atlantic Coast Conference, the 2025-26 academic year will mark his 16th as a Power Four athletics director, as he previously held the top position at Tennessee and Kansas State. Recognized in both 2022 and 2013 as a National Association of College Directors of Athletics (NACDA) Athletics Director of the Year, Currie also received the Bobby Dodd Athletic Director Award in 2013 and was a Sports Business Journal Forty Under 40 winner in 2011. His 32-year career has been spent entirely in the ACC, SEC and Big 12 and he currently serves as the ACC's representative on the NCAA Division I Council.

Building on the foundation laid by hall of fame Wake Forest athletics directors Dr. Gene Hooks (1964-1992) and Ron Wellman (1992-2019), Currie's team has focused on delivering A Model Intercollegiate Athletics Program centered on five core goals:

1. A World Class Student-Athlete Experience
2. Integrity in Academics, Compliance, Finance, Inclusion and Safety
3. Value to the University, Winston-Salem and Triad Communities
4. Win Championships
5. The Best Fan Experience in North Carolina

The 2024-25 academic year was another remarkable chapter for Wake Forest, marked by championships, academic achievement, community impact and exciting growth across Deacon Nation. Highlighted by the men's tennis team capturing the 2025 NCAA national championship, the year also featured the best season in program history for women's soccer, which advanced to the championship match of the NCAA Collegiate Cup. Additionally, men's soccer and men's cross country claimed ACC titles, while men's and women's golf, women's tennis, and baseball each earned NCAA postseason berths. Numerous track and field student-athletes also represented Wake Forest on the national stage, earning All-America honors at the NCAA Championships.

On Dec. 7, 2024, a key Currie-driven initiative took a huge step toward delivery as Wake Forest and master plan development partner Carter Front Street celebrated the groundbreaking of the mixed-use entertainment district "The Grounds" (www.visitthegrounds.com) after five years of behind-the-scenes work and planning. The first phase of The Grounds is estimated to have a $1.2 billion economic impact, with experiential retail and dining, multifamily housing and condominiums, a community amenity walking trail, and enhanced connectivity for the Winston-Salem community and Wake Forest's Reynolda campus on the 100 acres adjacent to Allegacy Stadium, Joel Coliseum, Couch Ballpark, the Intercollegiate Tennis Center, and the City of Winston-Salem Fairgrounds. In 2023, together with Representative Donny Lambeth, Mayor Allen Joines, and other University and community leaders, Currie helped the City of Winston-Salem secure a $35 million infrastructure grant for the project.

On Dec. 18, 2024, Currie introduced Jake Dickert as just the third Demon Deacon head football coach of the 21st century following the resignation of longtime coach Dave Clawson on Dec. 16. Previously, Coach Dickert led the Washington State Cougars to three-straight bowl appearances and mentored seven NFL Draft picks in three years. Building on Wake Forest's status as the winningest ACC football program in North Carolina this century, Dickert has reinvigorated Demon Deacon Nation with his Built in the Dark program philosophy.

During Currie's tenure, Wake Forest has captured the 2023 NCAA women's golf and 2025 men's tennis team national championships, eight ACC team championships, the 2021 ACC Football Atlantic Division title, four bowl game appearances and seven individual ACC titles. Seven Demon Deacon head coaches have been named ACC Coach of the Year a combined nine times since 2021, with national honors earned by women's golf coach Kim Lewellen, baseball head coach Tom Walter, and men's tennis coach Tony Bresky.

In 2023, Wake Forest baseball captivated the nation — rising to a No. 1 national ranking and advancing to the College World Series for the first time since 1955. Six Demon Deacons have been selected in the first round of the MLB Draft over the past three seasons, making Wake Forest the first program in MLB Draft history to have multiple first-round picks in three consecutive years. In 2024, Wake Forest was named a "Best College Athletics Departments" winner by Front Office Sports.

Meanwhile, academically in 2024-25, Wake Forest student-athletes continued to excel in the classroom. Wake Forest had 11 programs score a perfect 1,000 in the latest Yearly Academic Progress Rate scores for 2023-24 and two programs earn perfect multi-year rates for the academic years 2020-21 through 2023-24.

Grassroots fan engagement, innovative partnerships, strengthening community connections and delivering The Best Fan Experience in North Carolina are also hallmarks of Currie's tenure. Opening Night of the 2019 football season featured the first-ever joint marching band performance by Wake Forest's Spirit of the Old Gold and Black and Winston-Salem State University's famous Red Sea of Sound. The Demon Deacons have sold out Allegacy Stadium 11 times since 2021 while compiling a home record of 24-13 over that span. In the fall of 2021, Inside Higher Ed provided national acclaim for Wake Forest's innovative student pregame tailgate zone, which brought together 29 campus organizations and over 80 percent of the Wake Forest student body at multiple football games. Collaboration with Wake's in-house Communications & External Relations staff led to the launch of the popular DEACTOWN concept, and for the first time ever, Wake Forest hosted ESPN's College GameDay on Sept. 12, 2020, generating exposure value to the University in excess of $13 million.

Since 2021, Wake's social media presence has grown rapidly, with more than 150 million impressions and a 28% increase in followers in one year alone. The introduction of fan-first elements like the DEACTOWN Fan Zone at Allegacy Stadium and the student-driven Screamin' Demon Fan Zone at LJVM Coliseum has elevated the in-venue experience across sports. Men's basketball has posted back-to-back record-setting seasons at LJVM Coliseum, including the program's first sellout since 2017 and a building-record 14,744 fans for a win over No. 8 Duke in 2024. Wake Forest baseball has shattered attendance and revenue records, including drawing 77,000 fans and eight sellouts in 2024.

Taking on the task of resurrecting Wake Forest's treasured men's basketball program, Currie hired Steve Forbes as head coach in 2020 during the depths of the pandemic. Under Forbes, the Deacs have posted four straight winning seasons and four consecutive years with double-digit ACC victories — a program first — and have reached the ACC Tournament Quarterfinals three straight years for the first time since 2005-07. The Deacs tied a program record with 13 ACC wins in 2024-25, and Forbes has produced four straight First Team All-ACC honorees.

JOHN CURRIE

Sixth Director of Athletics

Currie has also made strategic moves across other programs, including the hires of women's basketball head coach Megan Gebbia in 2022 and volleyball head coach Jeff Hulsmeyer this year.

Wake Forest Athletics has experienced record-setting philanthropic momentum under Currie's leadership, with Deacon Club donors contributing more than $187 million in cash gifts over the last six years. Membership in the International Leadership Circle (ILC), launched to recognize donors who give at least $15,000 in cash annually for operations and scholarships, has soared from 113 at inception in 2020 to 359 members in FY25. The innovative "In Her Wake" $100 million initiative to benefit Demon Deacon women's athletics exceeded $39 million in its second year too. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Wake Forest set an all-time cash giving record of $37.5 million in FY21, followed by record participation with over 5,300 donors in FY22. Donor investments enabled Wake Forest Athletics to sprint out of the pandemic and deliver the Dr. Caryl Guth and Chris Paul Family Women's & Men's Basketball Clubhouses in 2022 and the new McCreary Football Complex in 2023. These aforementioned projects are completely donor funded and free of long term debt.

In June 2023, Wake Forest and hometown Allegacy Federal Credit Union announced a historic stadium naming partnership. Additionally, a groundbreaking agreement was established with Truist as an Official Banking Partner of Wake Forest Athletics and Presenting Partner of Wake Forest Women's Athletics and, recognizing the heroes of Wake Forest's role in desegregating major college sports in the South, Currie's staff created the Robert Grant and Kenneth "Butch" Henry Trailblazer Award in 2021.

During his 2009-17 run at Kansas State, Currie turned a program with an inherited deficit into one of the NCAA's most financially solvent and sustainable. He conceived and built $210 million in new state-of-the-art facilities, benefitting all 16 Wildcat sports, entirely funded without state tax, University tuition or fee dollars. In 2016, Kansas State's Bill Snyder Family Stadium was one of five finalists for the Sports Business Journal Facility of the Year. During his K-State tenure, the Wildcats won Big 12 championships in football, men's basketball, and baseball, appeared in seven consecutive bowl games, had 17 teams earn NCAA berths, and won 11 individual NCAA titles. Currie's career fundraising accomplishments include record private gifts of $50 million at Tennessee in 2008 and $60 million at K-State in 2014. His head coaching hires include Bruce Weber at K-State, who led the Wildcats to the Elite Eight and two men's basketball Big 12 championships, and Tony Vitello, who led the Tennessee Volunteers to their first-ever NCAA baseball national championship in 2024. Currie began his career as a Deacon Club intern in 1993 and later spent 11 total years in three stints at Tennessee.

Currie serves as a member of the Forsyth County Tourism and Development Authority and has been named to Business North Carolina Magazine's Power List multiple times. He taught a graduate sports management class annually at Columbia University from 2018–22 and is a life member of the Fiesta Bowl Board of Directors.

Currie earned his undergraduate degree in history from Wake Forest University in 1993 and holds a master's in sports administration from the University of Tennessee. He and his wife of 27 years, Mary Lawrence, are the proud parents of three children — Jack, Gigi and Mary-Dell — and King Charles Cavaliers named Chase and Scout.

ALLEGACY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION STADIUM

Home of Demon Deacon Football

Originally built in 1968, Wake Forest's Allegacy Federal Credit Union Stadium is the home of the Demon Deacons football team. With a capacity of 31,500, Allegacy Stadium offers an intimate setting with fans right on top of the action.

Formerly known as Truist Field, the name change came in June 2023, entering a historic, long-term agreement with a leading financial institution and a longtime, trusted partner with mutual deep roots in Winston-Salem. Considered one of the most beautiful stadiums of its size in the nation, Allegacy Stadium has undergone significant renovations in recent years. Enhancements to the fan experience for the 2023 season included new LED stadium lights and handrails in all stadium aisles, among other improvements.

Dedicated as Groves Stadium on Sept. 14, 1968, in a 10-6 loss to rival NC State, Allegacy Stadium represents an extensive fund-raising effort undertaken by the college during the mid-1960s, which for all practical purposes, made possible Wake Forest's continued membership in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

The stadium is located between Reynolds and Deacon Boulevards, one mile from the Wake Forest campus. It is also part of the athletic hub of Winston-Salem, which includes the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum, home

ALLEGACY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION STADIUM

Home of Demon Deacon Football

of Coliseum (home of the Demon Deacon basketball teams) and located across the street from Allegacy Stadium, as well as David F. Couch Ballpark, home of Deacon baseball and adjacent to the football facility.

After dropping its opening contest at Allegacy Stadium to NC State, the Demon Deacons played Clemson to a 20-20 tie the following Saturday, September 21, 1968. That contest also marked the first televised football game in Wake Forest history, as ABC broadcast the game as part of its regional package.

Wake Forest's first victory in the facility had to wait until after three-straight road dates, when on October 26, 1968, Wake defeated North Carolina, 48-31.

The Deacons have turned in two undefeated home seasons in Allegacy Stadium history. Wake Forest was 4-0 at home during its ACC Championship season of 1970. The 1979 squad improved that figure by one win to a 5-0 mark on its way to a Tangerine Bowl bid. One of the most dramatic Allegacy Stadium victories also occurred during the 1979 season when the Deacons rallied from a 38-20 halftime deficit to defeat Auburn, 42-38. That game marked the first time that two nationally-ranked teams met at Allegacy Stadium.

In 1990, an Allegacy Stadium milestone of sorts was reached when the University of Virginia became the first (and still the only) No. 1-ranked team to appear there.

Wake Forest broke its single-game attendance record at Allegacy Stadium in 2004 when temporary bleachers were installed for the North Carolina game, attracting a crowd of 37,623. The Deacons have recently been among the national leaders in attendance as based on percentage of capacity. Wake Forest averaged better than 100 percent of capacity each year from 2006 through 2009 and also in 2011.

McCREARY TOWER

Pressbox

One of the most beautiful press facilities in the nation, McCreary Tower stands as the centerpiece of Wake Forest's football stadium complex. The massive seven-story tower was completed in the summer of 2008 and houses luxury suites, club seats and boxes for the University President, home and visiting athletic directors, print and electronic media and coaching staff.

Built at a cost of $48 million, the 122,900 square foot McCreary Tower dwarfs Wake Forest's previous pressbox, which was built in 1968 and demolished after the 2006 season. Construction on McCreary Tower began in January of 2007, and the work was completed prior to the start of the 2008 football season.

McCreary Tower, which is situated on the west side of Allegacy Stadium, serves a number of functions for the Wake Forest athletic department, depending on the floor level.

The third floor is home to many of Wake Forest's external staff members, including communications, creative, facilities and marketing departments.

The fourth floor, also known as the Flow Lexus Club Level, contains club seats, premium club tables and box suites. The fourth level also houses The Grille at McCreary Tower.

The fifth floor houses 18 of the total 22 box suites in the facility. The level also contains the Moricle Suite, which is available to Wake Forest's prestigious Moricle Society on gamedays.

The sixth floor could be the most versatile area in the tower, as it houses the main press area for print media and home and visiting radio. The level also contains suites for the University President and the home and visiting athletic directors, as well as booths for scoreboard operation and instant replay.

The seventh floor houses two TV broadcast booths, as well as boxes for the home and visiting coaches and video operations staff. The roof area outside the seventh floor contains a photo deck overlooking the field on one side and a skyline view of Winston-Salem on the other.

The concourse level of McCreary Tower contains restrooms and concession stands available to patrons outside of the tower.

Originally known as Deacon Tower, the facility was renamed in 2016 for alumnus Bob McCreary, who has given over $50 million in lifetime giving to the athletic department.

SUTTON SPORTS PERFORMANCE CENTER

World Class Facilities

The grand opening for the Sutton Sports Performance Center and the Shah Basketball Complex occurred in September, 2019 and provides Wake Forest with a state-of-the-art center for strength and conditioning and nutrition as well as providing space for coaches offices, team meeting rooms, and heritage areas that celebrate the success of Wake Forest's sports programs.

Ben Sutton ('80, JD '83) donated $15 million for the construction of the Sutton Sports Performance Center. The four-level, 87,000 square foot facility provides strength and conditioning facilities for all of Wake Forest's student-athletes. Preliminary site work began in October 2017 and was completed in September 2019.

The facility connects to McCreary Field House and the Miller Center. The Sutton Sports Performance Center provides more than 10,000 square feet of dedicated strength and conditioning equipment for football. There is also space for strength and conditioning equipment for men's and women's Olympic sports.

The third floor of the Sutton Sports Performance Center includes 17,000 square feet of meeting rooms, coaches offices and a heritage area for the men's and women's basketball program. The fourth floor has over 18,000 square feet for football coaches offices, team meeting rooms and a heritage area. Over 1,500 square feet comprises a customized nutrition center.

The Shah Basketball Complex, named in honor of Mit Shah ('91) whose $5 million lead gift made the facility possible, includes 24,400 square feet that allows both the men's and women's basketball programs to have dedicated practice areas. The $12 million project features the addition of a regulation court that allows both programs to have interconnected practice areas featuring two practice courts and a total of 13 baskets. The Shah Complex features 6,000 square feet of strength and conditioning equipment for both the men's and women's basketball teams.

McCREARY FIELD HOUSE

Indoor Practice Facility

McCreary Field House, the indoor practice facility for Demon Deacon athletics, opened in the spring of 2016. The 80,000-square foot structure features a 120-yard football field and weightlifting facilities for the Wake Forest football team.

McCreary Field House was the first phase of a planned $58 million project that included the Sutton Sports Performance Center. The Field House was constructed at a cost of $21 million with Bob McCreary providing $12.5 million as the lead gift on the project that was totally funded through private gifts.

Located behind Miller Center on Wake Forest's Reynolda campus, McCreary Field House is designed to benefit all 18 Wake Forest athletic programs. It provides an area for teams to train year-round regardless of the weather conditions.

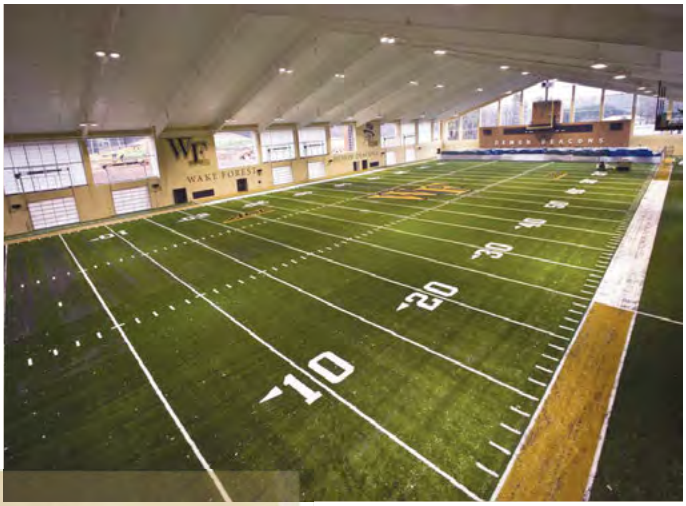
McCreary graduated from Wake Forest in 1961 and played football for the Deacons. He grew up in rural Caldwell County, North Carolina, and regularly credits the scholarship that provided him the opportunity to receive a Wake Forest education and enabled him to succeed in business and in life.

After a brief professional football career, McCreary worked for 20 years in sales and marketing in the furniture industry before founding his own furniture company, McCreary Modern, in 1986.

McCreary Field House is roughly 200 feet by 400 feet with a peak height of 72 feet. Including site work, the entire facility was constructed in 18 months. The playing surface is an exact replica of the Demon Deacons home surface. The McCreary Field House surface matches the home field surface in terms of appearance, pitch and playing turf.

McCreary Field House features goalposts that are suspended from the ceiling and can be raised and lowered depending on the activity. Camera platforms are provided 28 feet above the playing surface to facilitate videotaping of practice activities.

The facility consists of 240,000 bricks, 543 tons of steel on the overall super structure and 95,000 square feet of standing metal seam roofing. Over 125,000 man-hours were invested in the construction of McCreary Field House.



McCREARY FOOTBALL COMPLEX

Finished Summer 2023

Wake Forest University broke ground on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, for the McCreary Football Complex. Thanks to the leadership generosity of Bob ('61) and Michele McCreary and many generous donors, great progress is being made on the 4th Quarter Drive initiative to improve upon the world-class student-athlete experience provided to Demon Deacons student-athletes.

The McCreary Football Complex was fully funded by donor gifts and the project was unanimously approved by the Wake Forest University Board of Trustees at its October 2021 meeting. The $38 million total project price tag included all design, construction, maintenance and operational support, and no long-term debt was incurred.

THANK YOU

In their response to Bob McCreary's challenge to fully fund this world-class facility, Wake Forest is especially grateful for the leadership of these generous donors:

- Prentiss ('65, P '89, P '90, GP '16, GP '21, GP '24) and Joan (P '89, P '90, GP '16, GP '21, GP '24) Baker
- John (P '21, P '23, P '24) and Loree (P '21, P '23, P '24) Eckstein
- Alan Fox ('78, MBA '81, P '12)
- Bob ('61) and Michele McCreary
- JJ ('83, P '23) and Kaye ('84, P '23) Smith
- Ben ('80, JD '83, P '14, P '16, P '19) and Sally (P '14, P '16, P '19) Sutton

Overall, nearly 700 donors contributed to the McCreary Football Complex and fundraising is ongoing for additional football program support.

Additionally, the construction of the McCreary Complex provides tremendous value to Winston-Salem as an estimated 337 jobs were created as a result of the project and tens of millions of dollars were spent on sales/output and compensation of workers. Ninety percent of the funds raised for the project came from outside the Triad region.

The McCreary Football Complex is connected to the McCreary Football Field House, which is the Deacs indoor practice facility. Opened in the spring of 2016, the 80,000-square-foot structure features a 120-yard football field for Demon Deacons Athletics.

Along with the Sutton Sports Performance Center and renovations to the Doc Martin Practice Fields, and the two aforementioned facilities, Wake Forest has invested more than $100 million in football facilities over the last decade.

The McCreary Football Complex replaced the Mark C. Pruitt Football Center's Peahead Walker Football Locker Room, originally constructed in 1988.

Specifications and amenities for the complex include:

- 60,000 new square feet adjoining the existing McCreary Football Field House and Sutton Sports Performance Center.
- Locker space for 130 student-athletes.
- Player lounge with a nutrition station, recovery area and entertainment area.
- Football athletic training/treatment space.
- Hot and cold plunge pool area.
- Equipment center and loading dock.
- Multipurpose space seating up to 200 for team meals, meetings, functions and other activities for all Demon Deacon programs.

"This is about creating a home for the football players," Bob McCreary said at the time of the announcement of his $20 million gift. "For these young men to be together and to share thoughts and ideas after a practice or a game is important. That is how you build relationships."

CONSTRUCTION FACTS

Timeline and Numbers to Know

Timeline:

- Site work started on Dec. 14, 2021.
- Structural foundations began in mid-March 2022.
- Structural steel arrived on-site in late April 2022 and the building started vertical progress.
- Building temp dry-in for finishes occurred August 2022.
- The McCreary Complex was finished in the summer of 2023.

Numbers to Know:

- Approximately 17,000 cubic yards of dirt was displaced on the project.
- Estimated at 12,500 square feet, a total of 84,000 bricks were used.
- Structural components include 385 tons of steel.

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

Established in 1953

JIM PHILLIPS *is the fifth commissioner in the ACC's history and began his tenure on Feb. 1, 2021.*

THE TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Consistency. It is the mark of true excellence in any endeavor.

In today's intercollegiate athletics, competition is so balanced and so competitive that it is virtually impossible to maintain a high level of consistency. Yet the Atlantic Coast Conference has defied the odds.

Established in 1953, the ACC has long enjoyed a reputation as one of the strongest and most competitive intercollegiate conferences in the nation. And that is not mere conjecture; the numbers support it.

Through 72 years of competition, ACC schools have claimed a total of 196 NCAA team championships: 103 in women's sports, 87 in men's sports, and six in coed fencing. In addition, ACC student-athletes have earned 460 individual NCAA titles, with 217 in men's competition and 243 in women's events, further showcasing the depth of talent and excellence across the conference.

Over the last four years (2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25), the ACC has achieved unparalleled national success as the league has won six or more national titles in each of those seasons, marking the best run in ACC history.

ACC teams captured a league-record nine NCAA championships in 2022–23. Combined with seven national titles in both 2021-22 and 2023-24, and six more in 2024-25, the ACC has won 29 NCAA team championships in league-sponsored sports over the past four years — the most of any conference during that span.

For 18 straight years, the ACC has led the way among Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) conferences in the "Best Colleges" rankings released by U.S. News & World Report.

In August 2019, the ACC and ESPN partnered to launch ACC Network (ACCN) — a 24/7 national platform dedicated to ACC sports and original programming highlighting the conference's schools, student-athletes, and traditions. In August 2024, ACCN celebrated its five-year anniversary with a special broadcast honoring the ACC's most memorable teams, coaches, student-athletes, and moments since its launch on Aug. 22, 2019.

Now in its 73rd year, the Atlantic Coast Conference has grown to 18 member institutions and remains one of the most respected and competitive intercollegiate conferences in the nation. From coast to coast, the ACC represents a remarkable blend of academic distinction, elite athletic performance, and unwavering integrity — the very cornerstones on which the league was founded in 1953.

The conference's membership includes: Boston College, California, Clemson, Duke, Florida State, Georgia Tech, Louisville, Miami, North Carolina, NC State, Notre Dame, Pitt, SMU, Stanford, Syracuse, Virginia, Virginia Tech and Wake Forest. Each institution brings a rich tradition and a shared commitment to developing student-athletes who excel in both the classroom and in competition.

Today, more than 12,200 student-athletes across these 18 universities compete at the highest level of NCAA athletics, showcasing the ACC's unparalleled depth, national reach and continued impact on the collegiate landscape.

THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The ACC conducts championship competitions in 28 sports — 13 for men and 15 for women.

The first ACC championship held was in swimming at North Carolina State University on Feb. 25, 1954.

The 13 sports for men include football, cross country, soccer, basketball, fencing, swimming & diving, indoor and outdoor track & field, wrestling, baseball, tennis, golf and lacrosse. Women's sports were initiated in 1977 with the first championship held in tennis on Oct. 6-8 at Wake Forest University.

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

Established in 1953

Championships for women are currently conducted in cross country, field hockey, soccer, basketball, fencing, swimming & diving, indoor and outdoor track & field, gymnastics, tennis, golf, lacrosse, softball and rowing, with volleyball deciding its champion by regular season play.

No FBS conference sponsors more than 28 sports, nor features more than 15 women's sports.

ACC FOOTBALL

Consistent Excellence

The Atlantic Coast Conference continues to make its mark on the national stage, proving year after year that excellence runs deep across the league.

The ACC has had a team appear in either the College Football Playoff or BCS National Championship Game in nine of the past 12 seasons, including two teams in both 2020 and again in 2024, making the ACC one of only three conferences to place multiple teams in the CFP last season.

In 2024, the ACC set a league record with 13 teams earning postseason bowl invitations — the most of any conference. It marked the 24th consecutive season in which the ACC earned at least six bowl bids and, outside of the pandemic-altered 2020 season, the conference has sent at least nine teams to bowl games every year since 2014. Over just the last two seasons, ACC programs have accounted for 24 total bowl appearances, reflecting the league's depth, consistency, and national competitiveness.

The 2024 season also showcased an unprecedented level of performance. For the first time in ACC history, four teams recorded 10 or more wins, while six teams reached at least nine victories. In 2023, six ACC teams started the season at 4-0, tying the 2012 SEC for the most 4-0 starts by a Power Five conference in the AP Poll Era (since 1936). That same season, 10 ACC teams finished with winning records, the second-most ever by the conference in the playoff era (trailing only 2016, when 11 teams posted winning seasons).

For the second consecutive season, four teams finished in the Top 25 of both the final Associated Press (AP) and AFCA US BLM Coaches Polls last year. In the final 2025 AP Poll, SMU was ranked No. 12, Clemson was No. 14, Miami came in at No. 18 and Syracuse was No. 20. In the final 2025 AFCA Coaches poll, SMU and Clemson tied at No. 11, Miami was ranked No. 18 and Syracuse came in at No. 22.

2024-25 YEAR IN REVIEW

The conference completed championship competition in all 28 sports with 12 different schools claiming at least one conference crown.

The ACC was third among all conferences in 2024-25 with six NCAA titles in sports it directly sponsored, while ACC student-athletes accounted for 32 individual national championships across several Olympic Sports.

The ACC has averaged more than four national team titles per year over the past quarter-century (117 in 25 years) and has won multiple NCAA titles in 41 of the past 45 years.

The ACC once again led all Power Five conferences in the U.S. News & World Report "Best Colleges" rankings, with an average ranking of 51.7 — its 18th consecutive year at the top. In the NCAA's May 2025 Academic Progress Rate (APR) data report, the ACC posted an average score of 991, seven points above the national average, while all 28 ACC-sponsored sports exceeded the NCAA's minimum APR of 930 and 114 teams earned perfect scores of 1000, including at least one team from each of the 18 member schools. Additionally, the ACC posted a 94 percent Graduation Success Rate (GSR) in the NCAA's November 2024 report, surpassing the national average by four points.

ACC HISTORY

The Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) was founded on May 8, 1953, at the Sedgefield Inn near Greensboro, North Carolina, by seven charter members: Clemson, Duke, Maryland, North Carolina, NC State, South Carolina and Wake Forest. The group formally withdrew from the Southern Conference that morning during its annual spring meeting, and on June 14, 1953, they reconvened in Raleigh to adopt bylaws and officially name the new league the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Prior to that meeting, fans submitted suggestions for the league's name in regional newspapers. Among the options proposed were Dixie, Mid-South, Mid-Atlantic, East Coast, Colonial, Tobacco, Southern Seven and Piedmont. It was Duke's Eddie Cameron who recommended the name "Atlantic Coast Conference," and the motion passed unanimously. At the conclusion of that meeting, each institution was assessed $200 to fund initial conference expenses.

The ACC welcomed its eighth member, Virginia, on Dec. 4, 1953, during a second meeting at the Sedgefield Inn. The league remained at eight members until South Carolina withdrew on June 30, 1971. The conference operated with seven members until April 3, 1978, when Georgia Tech, which had left the Southeastern Conference in 1964, was admitted.

The ACC expanded to nine members on July 1, 1991, with the addition of Florida State, followed by Miami and Virginia Tech on July 1, 2004, increasing membership to 11. Boston College joined as the 12th member on July 1, 2005.

Further expansion came on July 1, 2013, when Pittsburgh and Syracuse officially joined after accepting invitations in 2011. On that same day, Notre Dame became a full member in all sports except football, agreeing to play five ACC football games annually, bringing the league to 15 members.

Louisville joined the conference on July 1, 2014, replacing Maryland, which departed for the Big Ten, keeping the total number of institutions at 15.

Most recently, in September 2023, the ACC Board of Directors voted to admit the University of California, Berkeley (Cal), Southern Methodist University (SMU), and Stanford University. SMU officially joined the ACC on July 1, 2024, with Cal and Stanford following on Aug. 2, 2024, expanding the conference footprint coast to coast and signaling the beginning of a new era for the league.

2025 ACC POSTSEASON DESTINATIONS

ACC CHAMPIONSHIP
CHARLOTTE, NC
2025

DECEMBER 6
BANK OF AMERICA STADIUM
8:00 PM ET
abc PRIMETIME

BOWL SEASON

LA BOWL HOSTED BY GRONK
UNIONHOME MORTGAGE GASPARILLA BOWL
GO BOWLING MILITARY BOWL
BAD BOY MOWERS PINSTRIPE BOWL
wasabi FENWAY BOWL
pop tarts BOWL
TaxSlayer GATOR BOWL
BIRMINGHAM BOWL
Valero ALAMO BOWL
TONY THE TIGER SUGAR BOWL
SRS Las Vegas BOWL
Duke's BOWL
DIRECTV HOLIDAY BOWL

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

PLAYOFF QUARTERFINALS

GOODYEAR COTTON BOWL
Capital One ORANGE BOWL
ROSE BOWL GAME presented by Prudential
Allstate SUGAR BOWL

PLAYOFF SEMIFINALS

Vrbo Fiesta Bowl
Chick-fil-A PEACH BOWL

2026 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

ACC | ACCOMPLISH GREATNESS

DEACON CLUB

Football Giving

McCREARY FOOTBALL COMPLEX

Start Date: December 2021 / Completion Date: August 2023 / Total Cost: $37,000,000

DEACON CLUB

Football Giving

SUTTON SPORTS PERFORMANCE CENTER

Start Date: January 2017 / Completion Date: August 2019 / Total Cost: $36,000,000

McCREARY FOOTBALL FIELD HOUSE

Start Date: November 2014 / Completion Date: February 2016 / Total Cost: $21,225,000

DEACON CLUB

Football Giving

THE INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CIRCLE (ILC)

The ILC is a comprehensive program for Wake Forest's top annual athletic donors. The ILC promotes awareness of the Deacon Club's campaign to invest an additional $14.5 million into the annual operating budget by 2026. ILC also strives to provide recognition of those who are leading the way in ensuring Wake Forest is the model intercollegiate athletics program.

"The International Leadership Circle is about recognizing the loyal support of our current leaders and fostering the next generation to ensure the continued success of Wake Forest student-athletes and athletic programs."

John Currie, Director of Athletics

LEADING THE TEAM

THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

International Leadership Circle is reserved for those who meet the following criteria:

Combined annual giving meets or exceeds $15,000

Deacon Club Annual Fund
Deacon Club memberships

Excellence Funds
Sport and program specific giving opportunities

Premium Seating Gifts
Club seats, floor seats, suites, etc.

ILC IMPACT

As a leader within the International Leadership Circle (ILC), you are part of a group of 350 members who share the same goal of shaping the future of athletic programs and enriching the lives of Wake Forest student-athletes. Your investment in the vision not only propels the teams to compete, but also empowers the pursuit of excellence at the highest level. Together, we are on a journey that is fueled by passion, purpose and an unwavering commitment to greatness.

- Members from **29** different states
- **182%** growth in ILC Memberships from 2021
- Represent the **TOP 7%** of all Wake Forest Athletics donors
- **OVER 77%** of total annual contributions to Wake Forest Athletics
- **OVER $7.4MM** in new and upgraded annual cash contributions
- **114** new members in 2024

DEACON CLUB

Football Giving

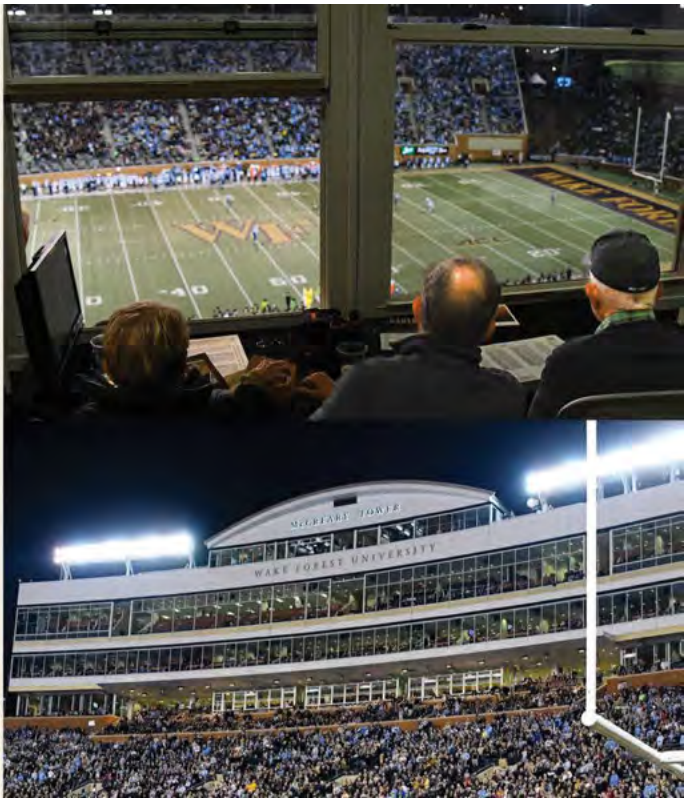
Flow Lexus Club

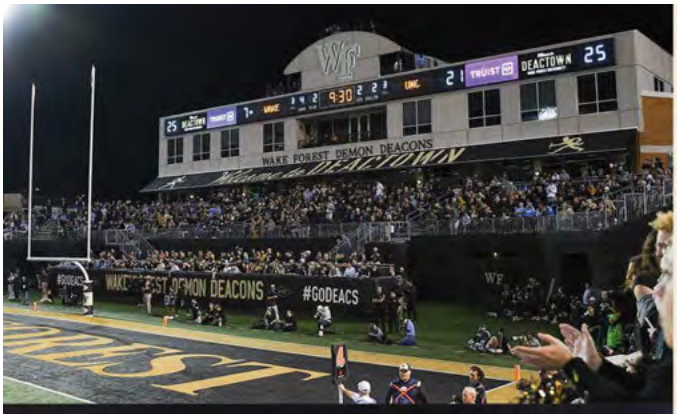
WFWS

& MCCREARY TOWER SUITES

GET ONE OF THE BEST VIEWS FROM MCCREARY TOWER!

Welcome to DEACTOWN





Touchdown Club

WFWS

ENJOY THE TRADITIONAL GAMEDAY EXPERIENCE WITH ACCESS TO AN ALL-INCLUSIVE LOUNGE IN BRIDGER FIELD HOUSE!

Welcome to DEACTOWN

DEACON CLUB

Football Giving

ON THE AIR

Visit GoDeacs.com/Affiliates

One of the most experienced radio broadcast teams in the nation returns for another season of Wake Forest football, painting the picture for football fans listening literally around the world on the Wake Forest Sports Network from Learfield. Stan Cotten, Lary Sorensen, Dave Goren, Josh Nixon and Tim Sparks embark on a combined 94 years in bringing Demon Deacon football fans the action, with 100,000-watt FM juggernaut WBRF-FM 98.1 once again serving as the flagship station of the network.

Stan Cotten is set to wrap up his third decade as the radio "Voice of the Demon Deacons" in his 30th season behind the mic calling Wake football and basketball. A 6-time NSMA North Carolina Sportscaster of the Year, Cotten came to Winston-Salem in the fall of 1996 and hasn't missed a single play. He's been on the call for some of the most exciting moments in Demon Deacon history, including the Aloha Bowl win over Arizona State under Coach Jim Caldwell, the 2006 ACC Championship win over Georgia Tech and subsequent Orange Bowl game against Louisville under Coach Jim Grobe and the seven-year run of postseason action led by Coach Dave Clawson.

Cotten is a Knoxville, Tennessee, native and graduate of the University of Tennessee. He is a member of the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame and won the prestigious Lindsey Nelson Award in 2019, awarded annually by the Knoxville Quarterback Club to honor an outstanding broadcaster who has advanced the game of college football.

Prior to coming to Winston-Salem, Cotten was the radio voice at Marshall University for four seasons from 1992-1995 and called the Thundering Herd's run to the NCAA I-AA national title in 1992. From 1980-1991, he was the "Voice of the Eagles" at D-II power Carson-Newman and on the mic for five national championship game wins. The 2025-2026 sports season will be Cotten's 46th calling radio play-by-play for college football, basketball and baseball.

Former major league All-Star pitcher and versatile broadcaster Lary Sorensen is in his ninth season on the broadcast crew serving as color commentator. Sorensen brings 'big league' broadcast credentials to the table with major market experience both in Milwaukee and his hometown Detroit. He has broadcast both major league and college baseball for ESPN and teamed with Frank Beckman for a time on the radio play-by-play crew for the Detroit Tigers.

Sorensen was a decorated baseball star as a youth, right up and through his days excelling for the Michigan Wolverines. He was selected by the Milwaukee Brewers in the eighth round of the1976 draft. His first full season with Milwaukee came two years later in 1978. Sorensen won 18 games and was voted to the American League all-star team that year, pitching three innings of relief in the All-Star Game. After giving up an initial infield single, Sorensen retired nine consecutive hitters, a feat which has never been duplicated.

Sorensen's major league career spanned 11 seasons and saw him win nearly 100 games, pitch 69 complete games and record 10 shutouts. He is now in charge of baseball operations for Winston-Salem based F5 Sports and resides in Florida.

Veteran sportscaster Dave Goren begins his third decade as part of the broadcast team beginning his 21st season covering the Deacons, fifteen of those seasons patrolling the sidelines where he'll be again this fall. He will also secure on field and locker-room interviews with Coach Jake Dickert and the Deacons. Goren's versatility has seen him serve both as color commentator for two seasons and pregame host for four. The Syracuse graduate is a veteran of television news, putting in 24 years in the industry (including 20 at Winston-Salem's WXII-TV). Goren is a former National Sports Media Association North Carolina Sportscaster of the Year and has served as that organization's executive director since 2009. He is also nearing a decade in the classroom teaching a sportscasting class at Wake Forest.

Josh Nixon owns the crew's second-longest stint as he begins his 23rd season in the booth. His roles over the years have included technical engineer, spotter and statistician among others. The Campbell University grad provides Stan Cotten with a second set of eyes and makes real time observations that immediately provide the play-by-play team with critical information including ball carrier, tackler, length of play, down and distance, etc. Much of what fans hear on the broadcast is a direct result of Nixon's input. He also creates drive charts and keeps an eye on historical statistics throughout each game. Nixon works in Mt. Airy for Altec as an Operations Trainer.

TIM SPARKS, LARY SORENSEN, STAN COTTEN, JOSH NIXON *and* DAVE GOREN.

Tim Sparks is a well-respected broadcast technical engineer, one of the longest serving in the ACC. He begins his second decade with the Learfield team producing and engineering the Wake Forest games each week. Sparks also served in this role for several years for the Motor Racing Network and was the engineer at his alma mater Appalachian State for 17 years. He also engineers the national broadcasts of several bowl games each season. Each week at home and on the road, Sparks oversees all technical aspects of the broadcast in the booth, on the field and in the locker room. Sparks has a long tenure with the Winston-Salem Forsyth County school system as a teacher, coach and administrator.

AFFILIATES

Tune into Demon Deacon radio coverage

Market	Station	Dial	Freq
Galax/Triad (Flagship)	WBRF	FM	98.1
Winston-Salem	WPOL	AM	1340
Winston-Salem	WPOL	FM	103.5
High Point	WPOL	FM	102.5
Greensboro	WKEW	AM	1400
Durham	WDRU	AM	1030
Raleigh	WDRU	FM	105.7
Raleigh	WDRU	FM	105.5
Wake Forest	WDRU	FM	106.5
Charlotte	WCRU	AM	960
Charlotte	WCRU	FM	98.5
Charlotte	WCRU	FM	105.7
New Bern	WWNB	AM	1490
New Bern	WWNB	FM	103.9

GREATNESS
IS WHAT
WE DO
ACCOMPLISH GREATNESS

Allegacy | WF

WE BELIEVE IN WINNING

On the field, in the classroom, and in your finances.

This year brought victories on many fronts, from unforgettable moments to academic achievements to personal milestones. At Allegacy, we believe in celebrating every win, big and small.

As you move forward from Wake Forest, remember that your hometown credit union is always in your corner, ready to help you achieve your next victory.